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LETTERS

A CONSTITUTIONAL QUAGMIRE

As a participant in the Macdon's national twenty forum, I noted with interest the letter from Deborah Coyne ("Building national futures," Jan. 26). Coyne's view has been effectively unrepresented by those who are wrong in law, do not understand Canadian history and are simply naive about contemporary Canadian political realities. The Politics of Confederation were much wider than any of their contemporary colleagues. They created, from the beginning, an asymmetrical federal system that has allowed for differences in provincial powers for the past 125 years. Mervyn Luke and the current federal efforts are a continuation of this original, flexible, pragmatic and generous vision of our livelihood. It is a tragedy that so few understand our history—let alone our future.

David Peterson

(Premier of Ontario, 1985-1990)

Toronto

A BLACK-AND-WHITE EDICT

In "Toronto's best friend" (Canada Jan. 33), your article about Toronto black activist Dudley Lewis, you quote security guard Albert Ansonov as saying, "If I get into a problem with a friend, say with my nephew who is black, I'm afraid to call the cops because maybe they're going to end up shooting someone." I think that the message to Ansonov, and anyone else for that matter, should be quite clear, be they black, white or yellow: Do not threaten the policeman with a gun or try to tie a problem with your car. Your assumption of the officer will be a good one when they have your house to respond to hundreds of other calls—just like yours.

Ronald C. De,

Ottawa

MEDICARE IN CRISIS

When Americans look to Canada for a model for their health-care systems, they are presented with a picture made of fear and to do "whatever it takes." Come, Jan. 13. The emergency and care-availability crisis of Canadian medicine is the predictable result of a subsidy system that completely covers the cost of high-tech emergency procedures, but pays practically nothing for low-tech, annual preventive care in what conditions would we expect reports of the government paid for emergency reports, but not the routine maintenance? The essential collapse of our aging Canadian medicine system is unavoidable. What remains to be seen is whether the lessons will be lost or others.

John L. Burrows, DC

First Chiropractic Care Centre,
Tillamook, Ore.



Peter Goyett: We understand our history!

I believe that the Canadian and American health-care systems are more similar than different, and very gradually the mechanisms need to be altered to meet in order to control costs. Canada raises care, the United States raises insurance—and both countries need under the expense. Currently, companies de-

velop new drugs and equipment with the legitimate expectation that they will be able to sell them freely and generate profits for their stockholders. Consequently, health care is flooded with new, expensive products for which real advantages over cheaper existing ones have rarely been demonstrated. Expanding the responsibilities of government agencies to include asking "Why do we need this?" will be necessary if we are to prevent the further decay of health care in both countries.

John P. Rosen,
Assistant clinical professor,
College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences,
Duke University
Durham, Iowa

FACTS ABOUT BACKS

After reading last year's issue about back pain ("It's not in the back," Cover, Sept. 30), I was surprised to encounter a recent People story in which you referred to world champion Canadian figure skater Kurt Browning's back problem as a "slipped disc." The championship season, Jan. 24, Lonsdale does not give up, but they never slip. Let us get the terminology right.

Peter Goyett,
Chiropractor/physiotherapist
Richmond, B.C.

PASSAGES

APPOINTED: Peter Heyerdahl, 51, publisher of Toronto Life magazine and former CIBC executive, as new chairman and chief executive officer of the nonprofit public television network TVOntario, by contrast Jack Ryan. Before joining Toronto Life magazine in 1983, Heyerdahl worked for CBC TV for 14 years and was vice-president of the English-language network from 1979. At the Crown corporation, Heyerdahl was known for his innovative ideas, which included the creation of The National and The Journal. At the new level of TVO, he replaces Bernard Gentry, who resigned in December amid an alleged romance with spending in the magazine's \$50-million annual budget.



DAVID HODGSON

RETRIED: Aerobic sports commentator Bernard Cosell, 72, after nearly 40 years in broadcasting. Best known for his 14 years as a commentator on NBC's Monday Night Football, Cosell left television in 1984. Cosell, a lawyer by training, is the author of four books including Who's Wrong with Sports, which was published last year. In it, he said that many college athletes were "filibustering" in college students.

DIED: Actor Freddie Bartholomew, 67, of emphysema, at Barikova Memorial Hospital in Florida. The London-born Bartholomew, best known as a child star, started performing at the age of 4. He portrayed early-famed English boys in such movies as David Copperfield and Little Lord Fauntleroy.

SETTLED: Former Liberal leader John Turner's 1989 deal not against The Toronto Star. As a result of a confidential out-of-court settlement, the newspaper last week published an "unofficial" apology to Turner and attracted a March 1990 story which said that Turner had demanded a \$500,000 compensation package to step down as party leader. Turner, who led the Liberals from 1984 to 1990, was Canada's prime minister for 40 days in 1984.

DIED: American blues singer and piano player William (Champion Jack) Dupree, 81, after a lengthy battle with cancer, at his home in Haverhill, Germany. An acquisition to such performers as rock guitarist Eric Clapton and blues singer John Mayall, Dupree left his native America for good to live in Europe in 1958.



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LETTERS

CULTIVATING CONSENSUS

Congratulations for your creativity and initiative in producing your special issue on the Constitution ("An action plan for Canada," Cover, Jan. 6). All the groups involved scored for editorial unity with a great team effort. If only it were possible for all Canadians to experience the magic of mediation. When we sit face-to-face with others, it is easier to discover and develop our areas of agreement. To quote Roger Fisher, leader of the Conflict Management Group: "When you don't know somebody, you have a cardboard image of them." Unfortunately, that image is often based by assumptions and misunderstandings, many of which we are unwilling to release until we share our views in person.

*John Eaves
 Deputy resolution consultant,
 John Eaves Management Ltd.,
 Vancouver*

It was a pleasure to read "An action plan for Canada." The positive vision of unity was most interesting and informative. Maclean's deserves the gratitude of all Canadians for promoting leadership in the search for consensus.
*Dwight Wright,
 Waterloo, Ont.*

The Maclean's/Decima national unity poll revealed many interesting contradictions, not the least of which is the discrepancy that the Canadians are willing to make major decisions in ignorance ("In a mood for compromise"). The poll indicated that less than 20 per cent of Canadians have even a basic familiarity with the federal government's proposals for changing our Constitution, yet 80 per cent of them would volunteer as the subject. I do not profess to know what this country needs. But I do know that it does not need to have its future decided by a bunch of untrained malcontents who cannot even be bothered to read and understand the basics of a constitutional proposal.

*Ned R. Thompson,
 Saskatoon*

Thanks for the work you have done to promote greater unity in Canada. I met with a number of people to discuss your Constitution-related articles. For 3 1/2 hours, we went over a message in Malvern* and came to appreciate its contents. We went to consensus. We have the leadership you have shown in revealing the deep love we Canadians have for our country.
*Rev. James D. Bink,
 The United Church of Canada,
 Leamington, Ont.*

Sellers may be contacted. Please include name, address and daytime telephone number. Write: Letters to the Editor, Maclean's magazine, Maclean's Reader Help, 177 King St. Toronto, Ont. M5H 1K1 (416) 593-3434, ext. 246-7720.

Now, we don't mean to disparage the virtues of this valuable metal. Only to point out why this precious little is known of and its applications.

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WHEN IT CAME TO
 WRITING ABOUT RUTHENIUM
 WE HAD TO ASK OURSELVES
 "WHAT'S THE POINT?"

INCO

STRONGER FOR OUR EXPERIENCE

LETTERS

A PINCH OF RUSSIAN

Alter Potheringham's endless nitro-bombings about old things English are becoming tiresome ("What Britain owes the rules," Column, Dec. 23). Could it be that they are born of a large helping of adversary complex, sprinkled with just a touch of envy? I agree that everyday English cooking is not the stuff of which gourmet dreams are made. However, I am compelled to point out that, far from being an English tradition, having goose-on-ye-fires seems, somewhat astonishingly, to represent the very epitome of haute cuisine, Cordon-rouge. With regard to the dubious he served for the post-humous dish of three served to the French rugby squad at the Cardiff Arms Hotel,

does Potheringham actually think Cardiff is in England? Possibly he needs another European experience—with extra helpings of black bread and gruel.

Margaret Smith,
Puducherry

Alter Potheringham obviously has not visited Britain in recent years; otherwise, he could not make such outrageous statements. His reference to Britain's foreign policy as a sequel to its European partners was cited with amusement. English Prime Minister John Major is a pragmatist who does not wish to keep his head over heels into a United States of Europe. Potheringham needs to do more in-depth research before he can make a convincing argument.

L. W. Matthews,
Toronto

QUESTIONABLE PRIORITIES

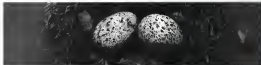
Hats off to the Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies for wending out the lines of Maureen McTeer, wife of Constitutional Affairs Minister Joe Clark ("A commission in chaos," Canada Notes, Dec. 30). It is very odd that McTeer, who adamantly supports a woman's freedom of choice to terminate the life of a fetus, is now trying to deny a woman the freedom of choice to create one.

E. K. Woodward,
Victoria

SPIRITUAL REGENERATION

Having just completed reading Markham's *Home With God* (Nov. Dec. 30), not only has my faith in human nature been renewed, but also in middle age, Canada and the human

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Barbara Amiel

- Love her
- Hate her



Her column always seems to draw strong responses. But you have to admit, Barbara Amiel gets you thinking.

And that's a good way to get into an issue of Maclean's, Canada's Weekly Newsmagazine.

Maclean's

THE WELL-INFORMED CHOICE

LETTERS

space. You have once again reminded us all that real success can be found in ordinary Canadians, many of middle age and beyond, doing what they do best.

Neil M. Blacklock,
Prince George, B.C.

THE BARENAKED TRUTH

What decade in Toronto Mayor Jane Rawls' stock in "Politically incorrect," People, Jan. 20? I am a woman and I believe in women's rights, but is it not going a bit far to list the Canadian rock group Barenaked Ladies from playing at city-sponsored events because, as the *Weekend* states, their name "objectifies women"? Do they not have the right to be listed? Who did they get to replace the Barenaked Ladies? Please, Jane? Or did they like those guys too?

Brenda Hammond,
Windsor, Ont.

BETTER MEDICINE

Date: France's comparison of Canada's medical and educational systems with those of the United States—and their respective impacts on the two societies—is probably the most pertinent article written in the past half-century ("A tragic tale of unnecessary death," *Column*, Dec. 30). If every Canadian citizen could be made to digest it, our problems of intercity and national unity, which are quite closely linked, would all but disappear.

R.D. Benoit,
Edmonton

I could not agree more with Date: France when she says that health and education are two areas in which Canada has got it right. It also agrees that the United States is a great place to live—for young, rich white people. The Bush administration should be more concerned by passing laws against race hatred and propaganda using devices like Date: France has spreading the cancer of racism that country.

Norval Ghosh,
Fort McHenry, Alta.

CARTOONS FOR THE EARNEST

Your review of the movie *Ami* refers to the portrayal of the Indians in the original Disney version of *Peter Pan* as "freaky characters"—a nicely clichéd, politically correct observation for the 1990s ("Return to Never land," *Film*, Dec. 16). Maybe you did not notice, but everywhere Disney's version was a caricature. Everyone was ridiculed, even blaws, silly, obscenities or misled for a laugh.

Kristyna Alad,
Toronto

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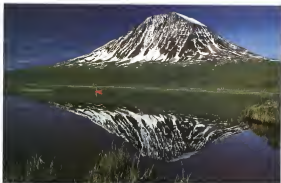
Cladonome from top left

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Canada's newest malaise—declinism

BY DIANE FRANCIS

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That's hard to say that we're trouble-free. We are in a recession and are overtaxed. We have productivity problems, related to high wages and prices that have been the result of government's laissez-faire overreaching. But what's newly at work is "declinism"—a dreaded disease that is based on unexamined retrospection. Declinism leads many people to insist that the recession will get worse, our budget deficits will get bigger, our competitive position will continue to erode and our wealth eventually disappear.

Such pessimists are wrong. But so, of course, are the Pollyannas. Canada and the United States face great challenges in the future and certainly won't ignore nonstoply as quickly as they have since the Second World War. But that's a tough act to follow: we've both done spectacularly well. Growth will slow due to competition abroad and because we have lived beyond our means too long and have a passive debt.

But we needn't about to change places with Mexico and become a Third World country. However, declinism, based on simple extrapolation—much as the practice of ageing a trend and assuming it will continue on forever—can cause problems of its own. Pessimism is nothing but a self-fulfilling prophecy. When people think that

When people think that times will be bad, they don't spend. And when they don't spend, jobs are lost, which makes the pessimists correct.

times will be bad forever, they don't spend. When they don't spend, jobs are lost, which makes the pessimists correct.

On the other hand, pessimism eventually makes the optimists correct: poor consumer spending means prices collapse; then consumers spend again and prosperity results. The point that I'm trying to make here is that straight-line extrapolation is flawed because it ignores that the market corrects. Eventually, a trend produces a countervailing reaction. But there is a caveat: political meddling can avert or postpone the market correction for a long time.

Case in point: we heavily indebted Argentina, whose dollars soared until interest rates and finally talked. Straight-line extrapolation would, by now, have had Argentina over more money than all of South America's interest. Argentina now lives within its means because things got so bad they changed for the better.

Australian example is oil prices. Remember when the governing Liberals estimated back in 1981 that oil prices would be \$20 (US) a barrel by 1986, enough to let them balance the federal budget (through huge new oil taxes)? That was simple extrapolation based on the

steady price hikes suggested by the oil cartel during the 1970s. But prices were so temptingly high that some cartel members began cheating and flooding the market with additional oil. The market supply exceeded demand, and oil prices weakened. Also, when oil hit \$26 (US) a barrel, previously unemployed Canadian car manufacturers began to employ. Huge new reserves of oil were found and that set the stage for a price drop, too.

Then, politicians began meddling. Some countries substituted the use of alternative fuels or subsidized the production of energy-saving resources in the name of "security of supply"—to avoid being held to economic ransom by the oil cartel. Even now that the cartel has weakened, and high prices with it, perhaps forever, Canada's subsidizing exploitation of Alberta oil fields, which is a multi-million project in an overregulated province. Another example is agriculture, where politicians subsidize farms with the result that wheat and many other commodities are, in real terms, trading at 19th-century prices because of the flood of supply.

Another correction that takes place when prices drop is known as "substitution." When oil drops and as manufacturing becomes too expensive, it is replaced by materials that are less expensive. The same extrapolation would probably say that prices would plummet until they reached zero. That clearly doesn't happen because, as prices drop, the words are soon for price hikes as demand rises and supply falls. The point is, prices and entire economies are on a continuous roller-coaster ride of correction based on supply and demand.

Even though we all understand this, the extrapolation still forms a powerful lobby of doomsters in Canada, particularly in the business community. It's unfortunate that the country's most enterprising people talk of morning out because of taxes and the resultant higher prices. As a result, millions of Canadians go south and billions of dollars in cross-border transactions take place, both manufacturing and massive tax avoidance. The country's economic strength is sapped by this and many entrepreneurs say that there's no hope of a renewal.

Ironically, today's problems owe the seeds for the next boom. The market will eventually correct: cross-border shopping and investment will soar until they affect the trade balance enough to cause the Canadian dollar to fall, thus making shopping and travelling abroad not as much of a bargain. Similarly, our bloated welfare state will continue to grow until the cap-bellied in here and services must be cut.

Blags cuts are needed now, but some politicians postpone the inevitable. Eventually, they agree to live beyond our means and borrow from foreigners to do so will contribute to a collapsed Canadian dollar, which will lead to either high interest rates to stop such a collapse or massive government program cuts. So the bottom line is, things only get worse until things are forced to change, hopefully for the better. So lighten up and vote accordingly. Canada's not finished—let's elect the right economic managers.

AERIAL DOGFIGHT

THE CRISIS IN CANADA'S AIRLINE INDUSTRY HAS OPENED A DEEP POLITICAL CHASM WITHIN THE TORY GOVERNMENT

Inside the 25th-floor Ottawa office of Transport Minister Jean Corbin, the reminders of one of his professional preoccupations are readily evident. One wall is lined with photographs and models of aircraft of various sizes. Outside his picture windows, Corbin can often see small, propeller-driven warplanes landing on the Ottawa River and larger jet aircraft bound for, or leaving, the capital's main airport. But in Corbin's seat on a couch in his office at 7:30 a.m. one day last week, the same Canada was grey and foreboding—much like the political atmosphere confronting Corbin. His mandate includes regulating Canada's two major airlines, Montreal-based Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International (CAI), with its head office in Calgary. For both financially troubled carriers, declared the 58-year-old Corbin, "this is the most critical period in history."

It is a critical moment for the self-proclaimed Corbin, as well. The minister, who represents the east-end Montreal riding of Ahuntsic/Verdun/Paradis, is at the centre of a complex and deeply divisive debate over the future of Canada's airlines. At stake are the air-travel habits of millions of Canadians, the future of many of the 35,000 people who work for the two airlines—and the fragile alliance between the Quebec and western wings of the federal Conservative government.

Publicly, Corbin and representatives of both airlines declare to discuss the choices facing them. The minister told *Maclean's*: "We operate on the principle that having two national airlines is good for Canada, and we do not discuss either hypothesis while that is in effect." But within the next week, industry analysts predict that either Air Canada or CAI will be forced out of the sky by the combined weight of crushing debts, fierce global competition and international deregulation. Indeed, in the first nine months of 1991, CAI lost \$93 million on revenues of \$2.2 billion, while Air Canada lost \$128 million on revenues of \$6.3 billion.

As both airlines struggle to survive, their managers are likely to seek Corbin's approval for radical solutions. Two options are most often discussed among industry analysts, both of them fraught with political difficulty for Corbin and the Conservatives. One would allow the two airlines to merge; the other would permit foreign investors to buy into one or both of them at ownership levels above the currently permitted maximums of 25 per cent—the parties in each as 40 per cent. Last week, *The Globe and Mail* said that a confidential report by a government task force examining international air travel has recommended the latter option.

Still, the minister asserts that those options are not being formally



Acts on the tarmac: Quebec MPs support Air Canada's agenda

discussed within the cabinet, where the final decision would be made. Declared Corbin: "We will maintain any such idea until one or both of the airlines asks us to do so." But other issues Toros acknowledge privately that the ministers have been discussing informally as sector government circles—and that they have the potential to cause a bitter split among cabinet ministers from Quebec and those from the rest of the country. The reason: while western-based CAI may be courted as a foreign white knight, any large investment from outside the country in that airline will provide stiff resistance from Air Canada. That company would prefer to buy its smaller counterpart, a carrier often accused to be unpopular in the West. Concluded one senior federal minister: "It is very much our intent to procrastinate on this issue for as long as possible."

In fact, they sources say that the issue has already been the source of minor friction among cabinet members, despite efforts to keep discussions low-key. Those debates have pitted Quebec Tories against their counterparts from the West. And many ministers express the fear that the party may ultimately face the same electoral abandonment as the West that governed its 1986 decision to sign a \$600-million contract to acquire Canada's QJ-18 fighter jets to Montreal-based Canadian Ltd., despite a technically superior bid from British Aerospace Ltd. of Weybridge.

For his part, Air Canada's chief executive officer, Claude Taylor, has actively sought the support of Quebec MPs for his company's takeover of CAI if it fails. As well, Taylor has strongly opposed proposals for allowing increased foreign ownership of airlines, arguing that it would eventually kill independent Canadian airlines. His company, which was privatized by the Canadian government, is wholly owned by private investors.

Outside Quebec, however, other experts make strong arguments in favor of allowing greater foreign ownership of the industry as a survival. They favor permitting Fort Worth-based American Airlines to buy up to 40 per cent of CAI. Analysts such as the University of British Columbia's chairman of transportation studies, The Dums, say that would probably bring the greatest immediate benefit to consumers because it would increase direct air access to the United States while maintaining competition between the two airlines. The likelihood that an infusion of foreign cash would keep CAI debt holds partially applied in Calgary—where 1,600 people work in the airline's head office and main fleet base.

Tory MPs from the West who support that policy have also received backing from some Transcanadians. Dozens of a cabaret by American air pilots by some analysts that the U.S. carrier might then use the Toronto Jockey at Toronto's Pearson International Airport—where CAI now the largest occupant—as a hub for the majority of its intercontinental flights. Such a development could lead to the creation of hundreds of new jobs. As well, concluded one Tory minister, "in principle, that

National Notes

GRIM DEFICIT NUMBERS

In an unprecedented postmortem on economic affairs on the eve of the new year, Ontario Premier Bob Rae said that his province's "disastrously high" deficit of \$3.1 billion in the 1990-1991 fiscal year—up from the previous record deficit of \$2.7 billion in the year ending in April. The projected deficit will balloon over those 5.6 billion and amount to a net loss of at least 10 per cent in private civil spending to schools, municipalities and hospitals.

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney invited the 10 provincial premiers to attend a first ministers conference on the economy in Ottawa on Feb. 16.

A BUSTLING RESPONSE

While Alberta party leader Preston Manning questioned the decision to hold it in southern Ontario, Liberal Leader Jean Chrétien issued a blistering attack against his Calgary-based rival. In a seven-page letter to Manning, Chrétien criticized Reform proposals on official languages, multiculturalism and conduct. "Write Canada," "Your party's declared principles and policies would dismantle Canada."

SPYCO ON THE BLOCK

The Nova Scotia government announced plans to sell Crown-owned Sydney Steel Co., known as Syco, which is losing about \$4 million a month—and has lost taxpayers \$1.5 billion in subsidies since 1968.

A VERDICT ON THE HIGHWAYS

A Quebec Superior Court jury delivered a mixed verdict in the case of three McMurdo Warriors charged with dozens of offences related to the 1990 standoff between authorities and Indians near Oka, Que. The jury found Ronald (Laurie) Cross guilty on 20 of 60 charges, including aggravated assault, sexual assault and sexual interference. The jury also convicted Gordon (Nelson) Lauro on one of 16 similar charges, while acquitting Roger Lauro on all of the 10 charges he faced. Judge Benjamin Gendreau was to hear pre-sentencing arguments this week.

DISPUTING THE RESULTS

Perth Quebecer Leader Jacques Paré claimed that his party's victory in the Jan. 20 provincial election in the Montreal riding of Ahimsa showed that Quebecers are ready to vote for sovereignty in a referendum. But Liberal Premier Robert Bourassa argued that the result was largely due to concern about the Quebec economy and high taxes.

Holiday with the stars

The Mulroneys join Palm Beach society

Where the warm waters of the Gulf Stream off the white sands of Florida's second season was looking back to life in Palm Beach, a sparkling sea of sand and coral of the stars and stripes was America's Riviera. Among the featured attractions in January were the Duchess of York (formerly Sarah Ferguson), and Canada's vacationing Prime Minister Brian Mulroney. Although his whereabouts were undisclosed in June, the Prime Minister and his wife, Milla Mulroney, were front and centre in the glittering rituals that equal the start of another second season in the extreme winter headquarters of the rich and famous. For this year's traditional Palm Beach season, lasting from Jan. 18 to 18, the Prime Minister and his wife emerged from a private retreat—the multimillion-dollar home of Montreal pulp-and-paper executive George Pettit—to attend at least two major events that for a man with few moustaches also has an impressive talent that reflects his athletic endeavours. It was not all fun and games for the Prime Minister. Says one friend: "He tends to be a bit like a cop on the first couple of days he's away, he paces round and round and keeps looking for the place to check back with Ottawa."

The season's first Mulroney sighting was on Jan. 11, at a gala fund-raiser at which Milla Mulroney was honoured. There, the Prime Minister found himself flanked by two elegant women at the reception. As reported in the *Palm Beach Daily News*, Mulroney nodded politely: "See how hard it is being Prime Minister?" On Jan. 16, a photographer in a helicopter snapped a picture of the wife of British Prime Minister coming by the pool at a private beach house. The *News* reported:

Mulroney emerged back into Palm Beach's second when a three-city cascade depicted dawn at an outdoor barbecue, also attended by the duchess, at the home of American football manager Robert Frazier.

The Jan. 11 fund-raiser for the Cyprus Filioia Foundation was hosted by Canadian-born philanthropist Harry Weiss and his wife, Mary, at the exclusive Breakers hotel. In recognition of her hardworking and promotional work on behalf of the Prime Minister's wife because the first recipient of the Milla Mulroney Commemorative Life Award. The 500 spectators in attendance applauded and cheered their approval when Milla, accompanied in a green floor-length gown with a green-and-white polka-dot bodice

But when Robert Denning, the U.S. national president of the Cyprus Filioia Foundation, presented her with her award—two Shalimar crystal ashtrays from a marble house—Milla barely to the floor, miraculously without breaking. The Prime Minister's wife put glasses in case with a well-timed comment: "It's a beautiful award—and it tastes."



The Prime Minister and wife Milla, glittering rituals

Agent from the two major social events, the Mulroneys apparently spent their time quietly with friends in Ottawa in official in the Prime Minister's Office would say only that the Prime Minister's vacations are private matters. "There is an informal understanding between Mulroney's office and most reporters in the parliamentary press gallery that coverage of the Prime Minister is suspended during his vacations—a practice that also extends to opposition leader Jean Chretien."

When out of the public eye in Florida, the Prime Minister taps a hidden network of powerful friends. Among that inner circle is Paul Desmarais, the silver-haired owner of Montreal-based Power Corp.—and of a mansion on

Palm Beach's South Ocean Drive. The 50-year-old, 600-acre industrialist has hosted an impressive list of Canadian politicians in Florida in past years, including former prime minister Pierre Trudeau and Chretien. The Mulroneys usually stay at the beachfront mansion of old Montreal friends. And on the year's first trip, the couple settled in at the Seawoods Beach Road estate in a North Palm Beach development belonging to Pettit, no old friend of the Prime Minister's. Pettit, chairman and CEO of the Montreal-based Jergal Enterprises Inc., was a government adviser from the forest industry during the free trade negotiations.

One sign of the Mulroneys' presence at the Pettit residence was a large motor home—normally banned under local bylaws—parked in the driveway, apparently as a base for security officers. One neighbour said that she was stopped while strolling on the front porch in front of Pettit's sprawling, brick-and-wood mansion by a U.S. marshal who "jumped out at me."

Local describe Pettit as a recluse and steel figure. But Mulroney's last scheduled trip to the estate of Palm Beach's elite in October, 1988, when he and New York City dancer David Thorne landed a compromise to fight noise from jet traffic around the Palm Beach airport. At the time, Pettit lived in a house closer to the airport—where he had installed an electronic noise-reducing device on his roof. To raise money for the effort, Pettit organized a \$4,000-a-couple cocktail party at Trumps Mar-a-Lago estate in January 1989. But he eventually moved further away from the airport, to his present residence.

During her second visits, Milla Mulroney has scored points for her high sense of style on Palm Beach's aptly named *Worth Avenue*, where people lounge and cascade down the sides of elegant shops, housing stores for the world's top designers. The Mulroneys often eat at the street's Club L'Europe, where dark-skinned waiters serve Norwegian salmon at \$27.50 a plate. There, their patronage is highly noted by manager Lela Golden. Said the restaurant: "Milla is a lovely woman. She wears Uggs."

Despite the ambience, the Prime Minister seems to be a reluctant vacationer. Although he played tennis in a tennis, he has given it up because his eye ailment affects his balance. And he does not golf—a favored pastime as a man whose Jack Nicklaus and several other pros like. Still, Palm Beach's balmy temperatures, breezy atmosphere and, above all, the privacy from prying eyes in Ottawa are a reason enough to draw Mulroney to the southern resort each January.

TOM PENNELL and JEROME SMITH at Palm Beach and ANTHONY WILSON-SMITH and E. KATE FLITTON in Ottawa

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A TRANSFORMED WORLD PREPARES FOR THE OLYMPICS



It began, improbably enough, over a fondue pot in a restaurant set high in the French Alps. Just over 10 years ago, in November, 1981, France's legendary skiing champion Jean-Claude Killy had dinner with his friend Michel Bernier, a rising political star in the mountainous Savoy region. And by the time they snuggled up the last bit of bubbling cheese, Bernier had persuaded Killy to join him in a campaign to bring the Winter Olympics to the Savoy. A decade later, the two men are just days away from realizing their dream. On Feb. 8, the 16th Winter Games will open in a makeshift stadium in the town of Albertville at the foot of the Alps. Once again, in the ritual that links the very streamlined modern Games to their origins in the sporting contests of the ancient Greeks, the Olympic flame will be set alight in the foothills of the Alps. And the dreams of 2,000 athletes for the following 15 days will turn the Savoy's soaring peaks and plunging valleys into a

dream scene of athletic strategy, triumph and tears. For Canadians, the Winter Olympics evoke still-fresh memories of the Calgary Games four years ago. For the first time ever, the Winter Games were staged in Canada—and even before they opened, the country responded with an outpouring of pride through the extraordinary Olympic torch relay that wound for 18,000 km across 10 provinces and two territories. The Albertville Games could hardly present a sharper contrast with Calgary—both in spirit and in setting. Such events are, after all, no poverty to the proud French, who have twice before hosted the skiers, slushers and sliders—at Chamonix in 1924 (the first Winter Games) and Grenoble in 1968 (where Killy won the three gold medals that ensured his making legend).

The settings, too, are radically different. Calgary hosted what might have been called the Downtown Games—with only the cross-country and Alpine skiing events far from the city's gleaming skyscrapers. The 1992 Games will be a complete reversal: only figure skating and speed skating events, as well

A nighttime procession for the Olympic flame in Paris: now, streamlined modern Games

Striking Gold

in the opening and closing ceremonies, will take place in Albertville, the alpine industrial town that acts as official host city. The rest of the athletes will be taught outdoor winter and mountain sports scattered over 600 square miles covering three distinct valleys.

Organizers call it "introducing the Games to the mountains—a landscape ideal but one that risks a logistical nightmare if heavy snow plays the games' rotating Alpine cards. In a posted reminder of the mountains' potential for losing the best-laid plans of men, medals, a second medal race on the weekend before Christmas brought chaos to the town. Thousands of visitors had to spend the night in schools and sports halls. Such events as Val d'Isère and La Plagne—both key Olympic sites—were scheduled for more than 24 hours. Organizers promise an array of snowplows to keep roads clear—but in the end, the Games will be at the mercy of the weather. "It there's a blizzard," said Richard Pound, a Montreal lawyer and vice-president of the International Olympic Committee, "we'll have 600 miles of parking lot."

The contrasts extend to the athletes as well. The political revolution that has redrawn the map of Europe since 1989 has also transformed the Olympic world. The two countries whose athletes dominated the Winter Games from the 1950s until 1988—the Soviet Union and East Germany—have tentatively agreed to coexist. So, at least, says Yegorin, which hosted the 1988 Winter Games at Sarajevo. As a result, spectators will have to be more than usually alert to identify the array of national flags borne into the Albertville stadium on Feb. 8. There will be no Soviet hammer and sickle, nor the Russian red-and-green of the German Democratic Republic. Instead, athletes from the new Commonwealth of Independent States will march as the "United Team" under the five-ringed Olympic banner, and a single German team will parade under that country's flag for the first time since 1936. And there will be new nations—the Baltics, Belarus, as well as ten newly independent from the erstwhile Yugoslav republics of Croatia and Slovenia—bringing the number of nations competing to a record 65, up from 57 in Calgary.

The effect of those upheavals has created the largest uncertainty at the Albertville Games: The Soviet sports programs, which won seven gold, six silver and five bronze medals at Winter Olympics between 1958 and 1988, has collapsed. But the changes also mean that the new Commonwealth of Independent States may still be able to field a powerful team (page 38). The Germans, after almost two years working as a united team that plays the best from east and west, will finally show the biggest practice from the political slapping. Traditional eastern German strength in both sports in speed skating, luge and bobsled will be tested as a German power in other areas to produce an impressive overall effort.

For Canada, the medal outlook is, as usual, decidedly more rosy. For all the publicity surrounding the Calgary Games—and the national speed developing athletes for it—Canada won only five medals in 1988 (two silver and three bronze). But in Albertville, Canada has several medal chances at stake (page 37). The brightest hope is Scott Brundage, the 25-year-old figure skater who has captured three successive world championships medals in men's singles and a silver Olympic medal. Those accomplishments have earned a price so eager that in his back he given Brundage so much pain recently that he did not defend his Canadian championship in Montreal, N.B., in mid-January, preferring to

rest and train carefully for the Olympics (page 36). If Brundage can overcome his injuries in time, he could well win gold in Albertville; if not, Canada's hopes will rest with his teammates Ireen Stigter and Michael Sherriff—who won the Canadian championship at Montreal. They will face such leading rivals as the Ukrainian skater Yekaterina Petrova and the mercenary American Christopher Brown, nicknamed "Bovoney the Skier" for his compelling performance.

A handful of other Canadians also have serious chances of taking a medal home from Albertville. The figure skating duo of Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Easter, favored by a first place finish at the Canadian national championships, should challenge for gold in the pairs event (page 32). Sylvie Daigne of Sherbrooke, Que., already holds the 500-m world record in short-track speed skating, which will be a full competition event for the first time in Albertville (page 33). Myron Bédard of Sherbrooke



A runner carries the flame on its way to Albertville: a nightmare if heavy snow plays the Alpine cards

Que., is a strong contender in the women's luge—the somewhat bizarre event with solitary racers that combines cross-country skiing with target shooting. In bobsled, Canadian drivers Greg Heidebrecht of Toronto and Chris Lutz of Windsor, Ont., expect to challenge the Swiss and Germans for domination a sport in which Canada has not won a medal since 1964 (page 40). Scott LeGardeur of Calgary, Canada's top-ranked downhill skier, is considered the country's best chance for a medal in Alpine skiing. And the Olympic hockey team, led by junior superstar Eric Lindros of Ontario, Ont., should provide at least excitement, if not a medal (page 43).

Many others will contribute to the artistry and speed that are the hallmarks of the Winter Games. Women figure skaters likely to shine include Japan's Midori Ito, competing against top American Tonya Harding and Korean figure skater Petia Kozlovskaya of Austria, the reigning women's champion in World Cup slalom; in the Olympic favorite of women's downhill slalom, the male skiers are dominated by Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, a slalom specialist; Franz Heinzer, the quiet Swiss who is the World Cup downhill champion, and the Swiss-born Robin Robertson of Austria, who claimed the "Golden Ice" prize, are the unknown wild punting for skiers—will bring their talent, their daring and their sheer ego to the taunting pursuit of Olympic gold.

ANDREW PHILLIPS

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Mark Tewksbury

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The Television Games

CBC AND CBS MONITOR THE OLYMPICS



It is troubling time in the French Alps. In the countdown to the opening ceremonies for the 20th Olympic Winter Games on Feb. 8, television crews from around the world are setting and re-setting their equipment at the International Broadcast Centre (IBC) at Méribier, 28 km southwest of Albertville. "There are engineers all over the place [viewing when] we're live," says vice-president of Olympic programming Rick Goetz, last week in a telephone interview from the IBC. By the time the Games begin, thousands of other producers, technicians, reporters and cameramen, including a 240-member CBS crew, will be at their posts in and around Méribier. But no broadcaster has gambled more heavily on the career appeal of the Winter Olympics than Goetz's employer—CBS.

Four years ago, the network won the U.S. television rights to the Games with a bid of \$352 million. That was \$79 million more than the only other bidder, who would guarantee, and \$50 million more than Olympic organizers said afterwards that they expected. Now analysts say that the money bid, coupled with the network's production costs for broadcasting the Games, may exceed the amount that CBS will recover from sales of advertising by more than \$66 million.

For the reporters and technicians on the ground, however, the Albertville Games pose more tangible challenges. For one thing, there are the logistical difficulties of covering events that are distributed among 10 widely separated mountain villages linked

only by narrow, winding roads. Although foreign networks will use footage provided by the Olympic host broadcaster—a consortium of French TV and radio companies—mainly including CBS and CBC, will also have their own cameras at some Olympic sites to bolster that coverage. Rather than rely on their crews' ability to shuttle between the aid and the more distant sites, several networks—including CBS and CBS—have rented separate accommodations for their at-site mobile units as Val d'Isère and Courchevel. Even with that provision, and CBS's Goetz, "Scheduling never comes out to cover leading sites is where the difficulties will come in."

But CBS has come to worry about the difficulties posed by the site. In the financial equivalent of making a leap from the 80-s to 90-s, the network hatched itself with its own awareness of a soft landing when it obtained the television rights to the French Winter Olympics. How painful the touchdown can be is a still-moral reality at real AOC, which led \$354 million for the 1998 Calgary Games—the highest Winter Olympics rights fee ever paid—and lost as much as \$50 million, analysts say.

Although CBS is paying much less for its Olympics, income may also fall short of what the real networks received for advertising during the Calgary Games. For one thing, the difference in time zones between

A CBS crew is a production truck gets the equipment ready for the Games' opening on Feb. 8. A \$252-million gamble on the viewer appeal of Winter Olympics in another time zone



North America and Europe makes it more difficult to broadcast events live in prime time—a factor that determines how much the network can charge for commercials. At the same time, network advertising revenue has declined significantly since the year of the Calgary Games. Bill Crowdsdale, president of national broadcasting at the Los Angeles-based media buying firm Western International Media, said that ABC sold 38-second commercials in prime time during the Calgary Games for up to \$375,000, he added that CBS was selling comparable advertising time at the Albertville Games for the \$255,000-to-\$280,000 range.

In comparison with the American networks, Canadian broadcasters are cautious gamblers when it comes to obtaining the rights for major sports events. Besides the \$119 million that CBC paid for the English- and French-Canadian TV rights from Albertville is the highest sum ever paid by a Canadian

broadcaster for such rights. But the Canadian network appears poised to do better from its Olympic investment than the American ones. According to Adam Lutzinger, CBC's Toronto-based director of television sales, CBC was selling advertising time for the Albertville Games at higher rates than it did for the last Olympics, at South Korea. As well, Lutzinger added last week, CBC's Olympic schedule was "between 85 and 90 per cent sold out." For his part, Alan Clark, head of network sports at CBC, says that the Canadian network made its \$15-million bid intending "at worst to come out even and at best to make a profit" on Albertville.

For broadcasters, there is plainly still enormous prestige attached to the Olympics that like athletes out of racial competition, many broadcasters no longer expect to earn gold at the Games.

PAMELA HOUNG

The following guide provides highlights of each day's events at the 1998 Winter Olympics, with the schedules for coverage on the CBC and CBS networks. Times are local except where marked as EST or with an asterisk (*), which indicates CBC broadcast times that are in EST for Ontario and points east, but local time in the West.

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

The Games begin with Canada meeting France in the first match of the Olympic hockey tournament, one before the official opening ceremonies.

Bonfire

OPENING CEREMONIES

- CBC 7 a.m.-1 p.m. EST;
- preview 6-8 p.m. EST
- CBS 4-6 p.m., 8-11 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

Canada's Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler challenge the traditional Soviet dominance in pairs figure skating as they take on world champions Natalia Mishkutenko and Artur Dmitrenko in the pairs original ice short, program, worth one-third of the total overall score.

Event

- ALPINE - Men's downhill
- SKI JUMPING - 90 m
- FIGURE SKATING - Pairs original
- CROSS-COUNTRY - Women's 15 km
- LUGE - Men's single 1st and 2nd run
- FREESTYLE SKIING - Ladies eliminations
- SPED SKATING - Women's 1,000 m
- HOCKEY - Germany vs. Finland; United States vs. Italy
- CBS 9 a.m.-5 p.m. EST; recap of day's events 7-9 p.m.*
- CBS 9 a.m.-noon EST; 2-4 p.m. EST; recap 8-11 p.m. and 11-30 p.m. midday

MONDAY, FEB. 10

Priority is downhill as a demonstration event outside the official medal count. But when the snow is uncooperative, Canada's David Walker could well be



JOHN H. JOHNSON

**ALBERTO TOMBA**Age: 25 **Nations:** Italy
Events: Slalom, giant slalom

Personal bests: Gold medals in the slalom and giant slalom at the 1988 Winter Olympics; leads current World Cup season points race in slalom.
Main risk: Switzerland's Phil Accola, second in World Cup slalom standings.
Nicknamed "the Devil" for his powerful and aggressive skiing style, Tomba also is well-known for his flamboyant lifestyle.

every other. In its second game, Canada's hockey team continues its inferior squad from Switzerland.

Events:
LUGE - Men's singles finals
FREESTYLE SKIING - Ballet final
SPEED SKATING - Women's 500 m
CROSS-COUNTRY - Men's 30 km
ALPINE - Men's combined downhill
HOCKEY - Canada vs. Switzerland; Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) vs. Norway; Czechoslovakia vs. France
● **CSC** 7 a.m. EST and 3-5 p.m.; recap 7-10 p.m.
● **CSC** 7-9 a.m. EST, 12-12:30 p.m.; recap 8-11 p.m. and 11-30 p.m. midnight

TUESDAY, FEB. 11

In the Alpine men's skiing combined event, the winter season displays the daring of a downhill and the finesse of a slalom specialist. The event could produce a showdown between elite downhill and slalom star Alberto Tomba of Italy. In the pairs free slalom, Canadiana Bismarck and Biedler complete their quest for the gold. Another Canadian, Myriam Bédard of Neuchâtel, Que., is a strong contender in the luge.

Events:
ALPINE - Men's combined slalom
NORDIC COMBINED - 90-m ski jump
BIATHLON - Women's 7.5 km
LUGE - Women's 1st and 2nd runs
HOCKEY - Poland vs. Poland; United States vs. Germany
FIGURE SKATING - Pairs free skate
● **CSC** 7 a.m. EST and 3-5 p.m.; recap 7-10 p.m.
● **CSC** 7-9 a.m. EST, 12-12:30 p.m.; recap 8-11 p.m. and 11-30 p.m. midnight

● **CSC** 7-9 a.m. EST, 12-12:30 p.m.; recap 8-11 p.m. and 11-30 p.m. midnight

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12

Canada's Jean-Luc Brassard is a strong contender in the freestyle skiing mogul event, appearing for the first time as an official Olympic rival. Competitors are rated for speed, turns, jumps and ease of navigation as they descend a steep hill covered with mounds up to five feet high.

Events:
FREESTYLE SKIING - Moguls
ALPINE - Women's combined downhill
BIATHLON - Women's final runs
SPEED SKATING - Women's 1,500 m
NORDIC COMBINED - 15-km cross-country
HOCKEY - Canada vs. Norway; CIS vs. Czechoslovakia
● **CSC** 7 a.m. EST and 3-5 p.m.; recap 7-10 p.m.
● **CSC** 7-9 a.m. EST, 12-12:30 p.m.; recap 8-11 p.m. and 11-30 p.m. midnight

p.m.; recap 8-11 p.m. and 11-30 p.m. midnight

THURSDAY, FEB. 13

For the first time at the Olympics, singles figure skaters do not have to roll over compulsory figures, instead they will skate a longer short program. Canada's Kurt Browning, the three-time reigning world champion, will face stiff competition from Victor Petukhov of the Commonwealth of Independent States and American Christopher Bowman and Todd Eldredge.

Events:
CROSS-COUNTRY - Men's 10 km and women's 5 km
SPEED SKATING - Men's 5,000 m
ALPINE - Women's combined slalom
FREESTYLE SKIING - Moguls final
FIGURE SKATING - Men's original (short) program
HOCKEY - United States vs. Finland; Poland vs. Italy,

Germany vs. Sweden
● **CSC** 7 a.m. EST and 3-5 p.m.; recap 7-10 p.m.
● **CSC** 7-9 a.m. EST and 12-12:30 p.m.; recap 8-11 p.m. and 11-30 p.m. midnight

FRIDAY, FEB. 14

Czechoslovakia's hockey team, which has finished out of the medals only twice in the past seven Winter Olympics, will post the first serious test by the Canadians. In ice dancing, Canadian sister and brother brother and Paul Duchesneau, now skating for France, are gold-medal favorites.

Events:
BIATHLON - Women's 3 x 7.5 km relay
SKI JUMPING - 120-m team event
LUGE - Men's doubles
SPEED SKATING - Women's 1,000 m
HOCKEY - Canada vs. Czechoslovakia, CIS vs. France, Switzerland vs. Norway
ICE DANCING - Compulsories

● **CSC** 7-11 a.m. EST (except 8-9 a.m. in PST region) and 3-5 p.m. EST; recap 7-10 p.m.
● **CSC** 7-9 a.m. EST and 12-12:30 p.m.; recap 8-11 p.m. and 11-30 p.m. midnight

SATURDAY, FEB. 15

No Canadian has ever won an Olympic gold medal in figure skating. It has to be back then, **Browning** must score aggressively in the 4H-music freestyle skate, which accounts for two-thirds of the total medal mark. Calgary downhill skier Kevin Lee-Garner goes for gold.
Events:
ALPINE - Women's downhill
FIGURE SKATING - Men's freestyle
BOBSLED - Two-man 1st and 2nd runs

FREESTYLE SKIING - Men's and women's aerials
CROSS-COUNTRY - Men's 15 km, women's 10 km
SPEED SKATING - Men's 500 m
HOCKEY - Italy vs. Germany; United States vs. Poland
● **CSC** 9 a.m. EST and 3-5 p.m. EST; recap 7-8 p.m. EST
● **CSC** 3-6 p.m. EST, 7-11 p.m. and 11-30 p.m. midnight

SUNDAY, FEB. 16

The high-flying skiers in the aerial freestyle demonstration event make the case of the most spectacular and dangerous of winter sports. Canada's star aerialist, **Philippe Lalloche**, is certain to dazzle.
Events:
BOBSLED - Two-man final run

**MYRIAM BEDARD**Age: 23 **Nations:** Canada
Events: Luge

Personal bests: Improved last World Cup ranking from 20th to second last year in slalom race.
Main risk: Brenda Bevilacqua (Switzerland), ranked first in World Cup standings.
Bédard has several new injuries with her speed and energy as a qualifying event that conditions even-number skiers with target shooting.

**CHRISTOPHER BOWMAN**Age: 24 **Nations:** United States
Events: Figure skating

Personal bests: Silver medalist in 1989 world figure skating championship.
Main risk: Canada's Kurt Browning, the world champion for the past three years.
The disciplined and controversial American has gone through three coaches in the past 10 years, including former Canadian champion Janet Zboron.

FREESTYLE SKIING - Men's and women's aerial finals
HOCKEY - Canada vs. CIS; France vs. Norway; Czechoslovakia vs. Switzerland
BIATHLON - Men's 4 x 7.5 km relay
ALPINE - Men's super-G
SPEED SKATING - Men's 1,000 m
ICE DANCING - Original set 3-4 p.m.
● **CSC** 9 a.m. EST and 3-5 p.m. EST; recap 7-10 p.m.
● **CSC** 9 a.m. EST and 3-5 p.m. EST; recap 7-10 p.m. and 11-30 p.m. midnight

MONDAY, FEB. 17

Curling, on the CSC only, appears for the fourth time as a demonstration sport (the previous three Games: Chamonix in 1924, Lake Placid in 1932 and Calgary in 1988).

Canadians dominate the sport, and this year both the men's rink, led by Kevin Martin of Edmonton, and the women's rink, led by Julie Sutton of Victoria, are considered strong contenders. Ice dancing medals are also awarded.

Events:
CURLING - Opening matches for men and women
ALPINE - Women's super-G
CROSS-COUNTRY - Women's 4 x 5 km relay
SPEED SKATING - Women's 500 m
HOCKEY - Poland vs. Germany; Finland vs. Italy; United States vs. Sweden
ICE DANCING - Free skate
NORDIC COMBINED - Ski jumping
● **CSC** 7 a.m. EST and 3-5 p.m. EST; recap 7-10 p.m.
● **CSC** 7-9 a.m. EST, 12-12:30 p.m.; recap 8-11 p.m. and 11-30 p.m. midnight



EST: 8:30 p.m. and
11:30 p.m. (night)

TUESDAY, FEB. 18

Of all the Alpine disciplines, the giant slalom is the most demanding on the skiers' physical, technical and athletic abilities. A race where success may come at the cost of the skier's health. The giant slalom course at Val d'Isère will be daunting. Italy's Alberto Tomba is expected to set the pace. If Canada advances to the final, the CBC coverage will change.

Events
ALPINE - Men's giant slalom
SPEED SKIING - Men's 500 m

CROSS-COUNTRY - Men's 4 x 10-km relay
CURLING - Men and women
NORDIC COMBINED - Team cross-country

SPEED SKIING - Men's 1,000 m
ROCKY - Quarter-finals
SHORT-TRACK SKATING - Men's and women's elimination
● CBC 7 a.m.-noon* and 3-6 p.m.*; recap 7-10 p.m.*
● CBC 7-9 a.m. EST and 12-13:30 p.m. (night)

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19

The women's singles competition in figure skating is traditionally among the most glamorous Winter Olympic events. With the departure of Katarina Witt of East Germany, American Debi Thomas and Canada's Elizabeth Manley, the stage is set for a new female figure skating star to emerge. Medals are awarded to women's skaters, whose skates are in a strong contender. Hockey could open coverage the CBC program.

Events
CURLING - Men and women
SPEED SKIING - Men's and women's 1,000 m



SURYA BONALY
Age: 18, Nations France
Event: Figure skating

Personal best: Placed 15th at last year's World Figure Skating Championships.
Short-term: Tonya Harding, Kristi Yamaguchi and Nancy Kerrigan, three Americans who swept the medals at last year's world championships.
A former world water champion, in general, swimming, Bonaly is not known for her spectacular jumping abilities.

ALPINE - Women's giant slalom
BIATHLON - Women's 15 km
FIGURE SKATING - Women's original program
ROCKY - Quarter-finals
● CBC 7 a.m.-2 p.m.* and 3-6 p.m.*; recap 7-10 p.m.*
● CBC 7-9 a.m. EST and 12-13:30 p.m. (night)

THURSDAY, FEB. 20

For the first time, Olympic medals will be awarded for short-track speed skating—an exciting event in which as many as eight skaters race at once on a 110-m oval. The heats sometimes result in spectacular spills that send skaters hurtling headlong into padded boards. In the women's 500-m event, Canada's Sylvia Daigle and Nathalie Lambert are expected to do well.

FRIDAY, FEB. 21

Biathletes are highly conditioned athletes who have to keep a speeding 780-lb. sled under control while withstanding the pressure of a tremendous G-force. Four-time Olympic champion and Canadian biathlete Steve Nadeau is expected to do well.

Events
ROCKY - Four-man team
CROSS-COUNTRY - Women's 30 km
SPEED SKIING - Men's and women's 500 m
ROCKY - Quarter-finals
FIGURE SKATING - Women's free skate
● CBC 7 a.m.-2 p.m.* and 3-6 p.m.*; recap 7-10 p.m.*
● CBC 7-9 a.m. EST and 12-13:30 p.m. (night)

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

A crowded schedule at the Games went down. The final in speed skating put the world's fastest skaters in a head-on race down the side of a cliff at speeds of up to 146 m.p.h. Medals are awarded in four-man bobsledding and short-track speed skating. Tomba displays his skating skills. The skating medalists put on an exhibition. And the CBC's coverage runs into the early hours of the morning for the curling final.

Events
CROSS-COUNTRY - Men's 50 km
ROCKY - Bronze medal game
ALPINE - Men's slalom race
ROCKY - Four-man final
SPEED SKIING - Final race
CURLING - Men's and women's finals
FIGURE SKATING - Exhibition
SHORT-TRACK SKATING - Women's 500 m and men's 5,000-m relay
● CBC 9 a.m.-6 p.m. EST; 7-8 p.m. EST; 11:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. EST
● CBC 1-6 p.m. EST; recap 7-11 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. (night)

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

Final Olympic coverage includes the hockey final and closing ceremonies.

Events
ROCKY - Gold medal game
ALPINE - Exhibition
CLOSING CEREMONIES
● CBC 8 a.m.-2 p.m. EST; recap 7-10 p.m.*
● CBC 9 a.m.-noon EST; recap 4:30 p.m. and 8-11 p.m. (night)

A Canadian Portrait.



It happens every winter in Canada. The new batch of skaters comes along. And while some might grow up to be the best in the world, most will grow up just having fun along the way.

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The Power And The Glory

MUSCLE OUTSHINES ARTISTRY ON THE ICE



Among Canadian figure skaters, Brian Orser is uniquely qualified to announce the explosive changes that his sport has undergone in the past decade. A world champion in 1992, Olympic silver medalist in 1994 and 1998 and Canadian champion from 1987 until 1993, Orser has been skating with Russia for over ten years professional after the Calgary Games. Orser, a native of Peterborough, Ont., who is part of the Maclean's team covering the 1998 Winter Olympics, provides an exclusive account of the changing fashions and the shifting fortunes among the most glamorous stars on ice. His report.

When figure skater Barbara Anus Scott of Ottawa captured Canada's first individual gold medal at the 1964 Winter Olympics in St. Moritz, Switzerland, she did it by combining breathtaking artistry with the physical prowess of a great athlete. Driven to a white fur costume, she glided across the ice to music by Victor Herbert. Then, she swept the judges away with a series of powerful double Axel jumps and three jumps. An Axel skated off the ice and into a moment here after with Canadiana, Scott had accomplished what every Olympic skater desperately strives for: a seamless display of artistry and athleticism.

Now, even though more than four decades have passed since the beautiful ice ballerina used Olympic glory, the sights, sounds and sensations of the Olympic figure skating arena remain much the same. I had the privilege of taking part in the Olympic Games at Calgary in 1988, and at Sarajevo, Yugoslavia, in 1994. When I close my eyes, I can still hear the cheering sound of my skate blades ripping into the ice and the great roar of the crowd when I finished my routine in the Olympic Solitude Room today, my stomach tightens as I reflect on the skaters' private struggles with their doubts and hopes as they prepare for the greatest hour of their lives.

The atmosphere of intense competition will

be the same in Albertville for Canada's three-time world champion Kurt Browning as it was for Scott decades earlier in St. Moritz. Still, I cannot help realizing how dramatically the sport of figure skating has changed over the years—both artistically and as a rules.

The biggest change has occurred in the women's and men's singles events, where the dreaded words "compulsory figures" will soon be a thing of the past. The compulsory, which required skaters to trace intricate patterns onto the ice, were designed to prove to the judges that the performers had mastered the fundamentals of their sport. But the repetitive demonstrations of technical competence had little fan appeal, and in 1999 the International Skating Union decided to drop them from the world championships—and the Olympics. The most visible component of any skater's routine required so much tedious and tiring practice that few skaters invested its potential. Personally, I loved the compulsories and cannot help wondering if I would have taken the gold medal in Calgary had they not been dropped in time. Somewhat cruelly, from my perspective, the decision to kill the compulsory came just one year after I retired from amateur figure skating.

But being at the front of the demanding compulsory era also takes a toll on the sport, as the skaters abandon the artistry of routines that were built on the intricate compulsory patterns in favor of gravity-defying leaps. The most important thing for skaters to do now, it seems, is to place as many difficult jumps in their programs as possible, without concern for artistic impression.

Coaches and skaters who defied the trend argue that when two skaters are of equal merit, the one who delivers the most artistic program will win. But it is much easier to enter an elite level of a sport simply by adding taller triple jumps to a routine than it is to create artistic routines. Even the most beautiful Russian comes up with a way of awarding medals for unique artistic impression, the quality of basic skating will continue to be overlooked.

I also cannot help noting that the jumping craze has led to a number of injuries, particu-

lar to skaters' backs and knees. The problems are caused not only by the aspect of landing, but also by the pressure that twisting in the air puts on the lower back. Browning, a representing major back problem and had to drop the Canadian change multiple just two weeks ago in Maastricht, N.R. Todd Eldredge, the 1996 U.S. champion, had to miss the American final and will have difficulty at Albertville because of his back injuries. Midori Ito of Japan, the 1998 world champion, has had continuing problems with her ankles. Weicheng Chen took flight into a triple jump, it is immediately apparent why.

I strongly believe that with the compulsory figures eliminated, skaters are no longer properly doing the strength- and flexibility exercises for the back, knees and ankles that they were accustomed to doing in training for the routine events.

In the future, I believe that the trend will shift back towards more artistry and creativity, but at Albertville, the jumpers will best dominate. And that will be good for Canada because, in freestyle, we have one of the most athletic and dynamic skaters in the world. Born with his back back, he rarely shows problems his best performance when he is under the most pressure. He is an amazing jumper, his spins are fast and his choreography is intense and from the heart. That is why he is a three-time world champion. If there was a vacuum, it is his ability to perform at a high level for a long period of time—but fortunately, he usually peaks at the right moment.

Hoping into the Olympics as the reigning world champion will be both advantageous and disadvantageous for Browning. In my case, being world champion in the past before the Calgary Games was a great motivator. Every day that I trained during that Olympic season, I stepped onto the ice and said to myself, "I am the world champion, the very best at the moment." It was not true like a champion, but I felt like one and acted like one.

Browning's drive for gold could be aided by the fact that his men rival, Victor Petrenko, has had a disastrous year. Petrenko left his home in Ukraine last fall to train in Houston,



Isabelle and Paul Ducheneaux: Canadians lead the way to a new standard of passion and drama

but he has since returned home and will appear at Albertville under the Olympic flag as part of a team representing the new Commonwealth of Independent States. Whether those athletes will best him remains unknown.

Canada's women's team will be led by newly crowned national champion Karen Pryor of Mississauga, Ont., and runner-up Josée Chouinard of Lével, Que. But Pryor will have a difficult time winning a medal against all international competition. And Chouinard's sights may be set not on these Winter Games

but the next, coming up in Lillehammer, Norway, in just two years.

While the men's and women's freestyle has turned into a jumper's competition, at least the men's event is staying true to its traditions. But even with that, the world's great men skaters are exceeding all the double jumps with the speed and grace of a single champion, and some are even attempting breathtaking triple jumps while skating side by side. But what is encouraging is that the judges in the past are still awarding medals based on creativity, and

not just the skaters' technical merit.

If there is one item in the world that reflects the balance between technique and artistry, it is Canadian champions Isabelle Brunet and Lloyd Eisler. They are ranked second in the world, and their power and artistry are matched only by Artur Dmitriev and Natalia Mishukina, representing the Commonwealth of Independent States. Technically, Brunet and Eisler are the strongest in the field. If they have one inconsistency, it is in the individual jumps and spins in their programs. And even though they have improved dramatically in that area, I will not be holding my breath as they leap into their side-by-side double-Axel jumps. But with a clean performance, Brunet and Eisler could be standing on top of the victory podium.

While tradition and dominance in the pairs competition, the world's great ice dancers have gone off in a new direction—but not necessarily a better one, in my opinion. It seems that the individualistic, impulsive and contrarian freestyle that marked us dancing in the past have gone by the wayside.

In the meantime, Canadians can take some pride in the fact that the ice dancing team that is leading this innovation is that of Isabelle and Paul Ducheneaux. When the Ducheneauxs did not make the world team for Canada in 1993, they moved to France. Soon after, the brother-and-sister team resurfaced at the world championships representing that country. Their non-traditional, extremely dynamic programs quickly caught the attention of the media and skating world—including the judges.

Now, they are reigning world champions and it is up to them to either continue with the trend or take a more traditional approach. While Canada's dance champions, Jacqueline Petr and Mark Juncoski, are ranked well below the Ducheneauxs, they are young ice dancers and may not dip too far into their own code. But I do believe that, once the skating competitions end, some lucky Canadian competitors will be clutching gold medals in their chests—a treasure that began with the wonderful artistry of Barbara Anus Scott in St. Moritz 44 years ago. □



The costumes drew gasps from the crowd of 5,500 at the Coliseum in Montreal, N.B. When Lloyd Eisler and Isabelle Brasseur stepped on the ice on Jan. 17 to perform their six-minute long program at the Canadian figure skating championships, they wore hot-white one-piece suits decorated with gold, fuchsia and turquoise sequins.

After that technically dazzling, nearly flawless performance, Eisler, 25, from Sealton, Ont., and Brasseur, 21, of Boucherville, Que., won their second consecutive Canadian senior title. The two Quebec-born skaters had given the crowd a preview of the routine that they will perform, and the costumes they will wear, at the upcoming Winter Olympics in Albertville, France. And the crowd responded by raising three distinct waves of applause, a few snuffed toy napkins and one breast-thrusted brewer. Brasseur, Eisler, a beaming, pregnant and on-edge Eisler said "Our Olympic programs are ready. We'll repeat the next three weeks on the last-possible-reflections." Now, after finishing second in the past two world championships, Eisler and Brasseur are expected to win Canada's strongest contenders for an Olympic medal in pairs skating.

They join Kurt Browning of Canoe, Alta., who has won the world championship in the senior men's category for the past three years (ages 34). According to the tall, lean Eisler, who is far more talkative than his partner, he and Brasseur will be performing a gold with aggressive skaters long and short programs that are full of complexity, innovative and sometimes dangerous manœuvres. He added that their chief rivals, the current world champions Natalia Makhtanova and Artur Dmitriev of the Commonwealth of Independent States, rely more on graceful, artistic routines and fluff. "Technically, both teams are very equal. But the styles are not like night and day."

With their mesmerizing first program, Eisler and Brasseur completely overshadowed two other pairs who will accompany them to Albertville: Doug Lott, 30, and Christine Hawke, 33, who train in Kitchener, Ont., finished second in Montreal and given Eisler an outside chance at a medal. A third pair, Kim Wirtz, 22, of Moncton, Ont., and Sherry Ball, 36 of St. Thomas, Ont., earned their Olympic berth with a dynamic performance that captivated them into third place, ahead of several more experienced and highly ranked pairs. After being named to the Olympic team, an emboldened Wirtz declared: "This is our first Olympics, our first everything. We're thrilled."

Eisler and Brasseur promise to train four hours a day to polish their programs. Eisler said that they will have to improve on their performances at the nationals in order to win a medal in the Olympic pairs competition, which takes place on Feb. 9 and 11

During the two-minute, 40-second short program, Brasseur fell while they were doing a side-by-side jump. In the long program, they made one viable mistake, but otherwise turned in impressive performances. Eisler said that he and Brasseur were confident that they could make a couple of mistakes in the long program and still win the Canadian title. But at the Olympics, he added, they have to aim for perfection. Said Eisler: "You have to do a clean short program. In the long program, you might get away with a small mistake because over 4½ minutes, the odd of everybody skating perfectly are very slim."

Two lifts and twists separate Eisler and Brasseur from many domestic and international rivals. According to both skaters, they are the only pair in the world who can perform a triple lateral twist. The move begins with both skaters travelling across the ice at full speed. Eisler lifts Brasseur over his head and throws her into the air. The five-foot, 60-lb. Brasseur spins three times in a horizontal position before Eisler catches her. Their coach, Justin Picard, said that Brasseur spins about 12 feet above the ice. Added Picard: "The reason they can do all these tricks is not only because Lloyd is so strong, but also because Isabelle is so gutsy. Not many people want to be thrown that high."

Along with their dazzling acts, Eisler and Brasseur made an impression on spectators and judges alike with their hot-white costumes. Brasseur said that a waist-stress in Terrebonne, 30 km north of Montreal, made the outfits less full in a cost of about \$2,000 each. But Eisler liked the suits they were then for the Nations Cup competition in November in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, some of the judges and a few of the skaters considered them too flabby. Still, they won the pairs event there. Explained Eisler: "We said, 'We're two-time silver medalists, so let's look like it.' We're going to the Olympics in medal contenders, not someone who's from the backwoods."

At the start of the current skating season, there was some doubt that Eisler would be able to perform to his usual standards because he had surgery on both knees during the summer. He now a ligament on his left knee in December, 1996, when he sustained an a good post device in a pre-Olympic hockey league game. For the rest of the skating season, Eisler wore a brace to protect the knee, and then, in June, he underwent surgery to repair the damage. But by continuing to skate, he had put so much stress on his right knee that it required minor surgery again in September. Eisler now says that both knees are completely healed. But he is recovering from another minor injury—a fractured finger on his left hand suffered while coaching Brasseur during an exhibition performance.

For Canada's top pairs team, an Olympic gold medal would be an enormous accomplishment. Over the past quarter of a century, skaters from republics in the former Soviet Union have



Eisler and Brasseur in Montreal: completed, innovative and dangerous

completely dominated the pairs category, winning 21 of 25 world championships and all six Olympic golds. Barbara Kudryavtseva and Vladimir Yemelin were the last Canadians to win the Soviet hold on the event by winning the world championship in 1984. But both Eisler and coach Picard contend that the collapse of the Soviet Union—and its comprehensive system of supporting amateur athletes—may make pairs skating be more competitive. Said Eisler: "Under Communist rule, they didn't have to worry about money, training, coaching, housing or schooling. In the next 10 years, they're going to find out how we've had to live and support ourselves."

Like most athletes who attend the Olympics, Eisler and Brasseur have been training and competing since they were children. Brasseur, who grew up in St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Que., 25 km southeast of Montreal, said that she began skating at 6 and has been training under Picard since she was 8. The coach said that she quickly decided that Brasseur should try pairs skating because she was small. Added Picard: "She was 8 but she looked 4, she was so tiny. She weighed 42 lb."

Eisler, a native of Sealton, 80 km north of London, Ont., and that he started for the first time at 7 and competed at the provincial level less than two years later. He said that he wanted to play hockey as a child, but he had to wear canvas-made orthopedic boots to correct problems with the size and shape of his feet. Hockey skates with such specialized boots were unavailable, but his family was able to purchase a custom-fitted pair of figure skates.

As an adult, Eisler has become an accomplished hockey player. The league in which he competes includes several former Junior A players and two former National Leagueers. He is also a good golfer, with a handicap of five, rides a 1980-cv Honda Goldwing motorcycle and listens to country-and-western music. Brasseur, who says that she doesn't like country and western at all, is studying business administration at Collège Édouard-Montpetit in Longueuil, a suburb of Montreal. Skating and studies provide diversions in her limited spare time after skating and school.

Eisler and Brasseur, who began skating together in January of 1987, finished ninth at the 1988 Olympics in Calgary. According to Picard, the Olympics were just their second appearance together before a panel of international judges and it was an accomplishment, not to make the Top 10. She added that their current strength as a pair lies in the fact that their styles are so different. Said Picard: "Isabelle is a very relaxed, classy, soft skater. Lloyd is more aggressive and physical. They're totally opposite, but one complements the other. The combination of the two is perfect. It is a pairing of opposites that could put Canada atop the victory podium at Albertville."

BY ARCY JENSEN in Montreal

Stars With A Twist

LOYD EISLER HURLS HIS

PARTNER, ISABELLE

BRASSEUR, TO NEW HEIGHTS

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Talent Under Pressure

INJURIES DOG CANADA'S TOP MEN'S FIGURE SKATING STARS



On a recent Sunday afternoon in Montreal, P.D., Evgeni Plushenko hoped to emerge from the long shadow of Kost Browning. For the past two seasons, the 19-year-old Skopje, of Macedonia, had, after all, finished second to Browning at the Canadian figure skating championships. But Skopje was favored to become the 1990 men's champion because Browning was at home in Kalamazoo, recuperating from a back injury and preparing for the Olympics. But it was not to be Skopje's day. Instead, he was unexpectedly overwhelmed by 20-year-old Slovenian Michael Slagochuk. Slagochuk won the men's title with a

graceful and almost acrobatic program, despite suffering a profuse nosebleed during the previous evening's program that almost put him out of the competition. Afterwards, a jubilant Slagochuk said, "I've always dreamt of winning a championship. But I wasn't the favorite to win here. I wish the audience."

Even though Browning, from Colorado, admitted the national championships that are normally used to select Olympic competitors, he will still represent Canada at the Winter Games in Albertville. The Canadian Olympic Association guaranteed him a place on the national team because he has won three consecutive world championships and remains one of Canada's top medal candidates. Slagochuk and Skopje will also join him as a result of their

performances in Montreal. And both are potential medal winners. Skopje placed sixth at the 1990 world championships, while Slagochuk was seventh. They may well surpass on those placings because two other top-ranked international skaters, Yuli Yulif of the United States and Ukrainian Victor Petrenko, are recovering from injuries.

However, Canada's best prospects for a skating medal largely depend on whether Browning is healthy. Doctors have diagnosed that Browning suffered an injured disc in his lower back the day before leaving to compete in a pre-Olympic event in Albertville last November. The skater's coach, Michael Jirassak, said that the injury caused painful back spasms that prevented Browning from training for several

Browning's opponents' performances so powerful that he injured a disc

weeks. But since early January, Browning has been skating about 20 hours a day at Edmonton's Royal Gleason Club. Saint-Jas, "That is quite healthy. He doesn't have any pain."

Beyond skating daily, Browning is also being treated at the University of Alberta's Glen Sattou Sports Medicine Clinic. Kevin Albrecht, the skater's Toronto-based agent, said that a team of two doctors, two physiotherapists and a chiropractor has developed a program aimed at strengthening the muscles around the damaged disc to prevent the injury from recurring. Both the agent and the coach said that they are also attempting to shield Browning from excessive public and media scrutiny before the Olympics. Meanwhile, Browning receives a \$600-a-month grant from Sport Canada, for which he qualifies by being among the top eight in the world in his sport. The skater also draws an allowance from a trust fund built up with his earnings from endorsements, personal appearances and skating exhibitions.

For the past three seasons, Browning has been prominently vulnerable both at home and abroad. But Skopje had emerged as the skater most likely to succeed Browning as Canadian champion. In Skopje's coach, Doug Leigh, notes, in 1990 his skater became the first competitor to land a quadruple combination jump at the world championships. The maneuver required Skopje to complete four revolutions in the air followed by another jump immediately after, landing a "triple jump." "He's a great jumper, and he does them all. He doesn't only have a weak jump."

But the young skater readily acknowledges that to move up in the world rankings, he has to improve the artistic side of his performance. "The skill that artistic presentation can be polished partly through experience but it must also flow naturally from the skater's personality. Skopje said that while he and Browning are a close match technically, the world champion is a far more stylish skater. Said Skopje, "Kost's character starts more than mine on the ice. It's the audience, the happy-go-lucky guy. I'm more reserved."

Despite his artistic shortcomings, Skopje's technical abilities almost carried him to the Canadian title in Montreal. He led the field of 13 skaters after performing a flawless two-con-

struction, 40-second short program that the next day, he made four costly mistakes—losing clarity or falling as he moved out to the start part of his program—while performing jumps at his best program. Afterwards, Skopje said that his poor performance was partly caused by an injury to his left foot, later diagnosed as a fractured bone, which had prevented him from practicing some of his triple jumps for almost a month.

While Skopje faltered, Slagochuk excelled to win his first Canadian men's senior title, his first berth on a Canadian Olympic team and what some of his supporters described as a well-deserved moment in the spotlight. Though at the Royal Gleason Club with Browning since 1983, he has performed largely in the dark shadow cast by a succession of more celebrated skaters, including Brian Orser,

about halfway through his performance, he had to stop skating because the bleeding had started again. Despite the interruption, he finished in third place after the short program.

The following morning, before Slagochuk was due to perform his long program, a physician cut, nose and throat specialist confirmed a damaged blood vessel in his nose. With his medical problems resolved and his confidence intact, Slagochuk skated a fluid, graceful and nearly acrobatic long program that won him the Canadian title. After Slagochuk, "When I got off the ice, I knew I'd make the Olympic team, and that was my goal."

But after qualifying to compete at Albertville, both Slagochuk and Skopje may have a tough race winning a medal there. Jirassak said that he expects last year's top five skaters—Browning, Petrenko, Yulif, Kharlamov and Savel-



Slagochuk (left): Skopje's stardom led to the underdog's home and a chance for Olympic medals

Browning and Skopje. After winning in Montreal, Slagochuk acknowledged that at times over the past five seasons, his inability to cope with pressure hurt his performances. Said the new Canadian champion of his winning performance: "I had a lot more confidence than I usually do. I didn't give up today. That's what usually happens to me."

Slagochuk's pose and self-assurance were all the more remarkable because of the malodorous that nearly forced him out of the competition. His nose began to bleed as he was warming up to perform his short program before a crowd of over 5,500 people. The competition was held up for 18 minutes while he, his coach and a local doctor attempted to stop the bleed-

American Christopher Bowman, and Czechoslovakian Petr Barna—to resume at the top of the Olympic festival if their injuries do not take too high a toll. In a sport where careers and reputations are established over many years, it is rare for a rising young competitor like Skopje to overtake the judges enough to skate off with a medal. Still, noted coach Leigh, "Figure skating is not like a best-of-seven series, or a one-wining game. We're always playing catch-up, and in sudden death anything can happen." After three months here in Montreal, Skopje and his coach would undoubtedly seek an aspect of their own in Albertville.

D'ARCY JENTISH in Montreal

Friends—Of A Kind

COOLHEADED QUEBECERS DUEL FOR GOLD ON THE SHORT TRACK



Sylvie Daigle and Nathalie Lambert have spent much of the past decade chasing each other at international-level speed skating events. The two Quebec women are Canada's queens of the wild and woolly sport known as short-track speed skating, where as many as eight contestants sprinted head-to-head in close proximity around a surface smaller than a hockey rink, often reaching speeds as much as 25 m.p.h. Lambert, a 28-year-old Montebello, is the reigning world champion. Daigle, 26 and a native of Sherbrooke, has won the world crown five times in the past 12 years and last November set a new world

record's abilities and that has helped to lift them both to a very high level."

Of the two, Daigle's record is the more impressive. The slim, dark-skinned athlete, the youngest of five daughters and now 10, has excelled almost from the moment she first laced on a pair of speed skates. She was only 9 when she competed in her first major competition, the Quebec Games. By the time she was 15, she had won a short-track world championship and a place on the national team. She represented Canada in the 1988 event in traditional long-track speed skating at the 1988 Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y., when she was 17.

At 16, she was ranked sixth in the world in long-track, the event that propelled fellow Quebecers and national teammates Gaston Roelofs, winner of two gold medals and a bronze in the 1984 Games, onto the world scene. But chronic weaknesses in the muscles in the front of her legs forced Daigle to abandon long-track racing, at which competitors skate against the clock around a 400-m oval.

But it did not keep her out of the shorter version of the sport, a rough-and-tumble race against individuals around a 130-m circuit that some have called an informal Roller Derby. She won another short-track world crown in 1983 and two more as the decade drew to a close. In the 1988 Olympic Games in Calgary, where short-track was a demonstration event, Daigle won a gold and a silver medal.

Although Daigle narrowly lost the 1991 world championship in March in Anchorage, Lambert, also quickly acknowledged that she remains a major force in the sport. In November, she bounced off the magazine during a pre-Olympic event at the Albertville line 100, sprouting just the world's fastest speed skater, Yvone Zang of China, and establishing in the process a world record for the Olympic distance. She covered the 500 m in the oval oval in 44.73 seconds, the first woman to beat the



Daigle: a decade of dominance on speed skating's small oval

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47 second mark. "Sure it felt good," Daigle smiled, quickly adding, "But it was just a first step. I haven't won an Olympic medal yet."

The remark reflects Daigle's levelheaded approach to the sport that she has come to dominate. "She's an athlete's girl," said teammate Lambert. "It's one of the main reasons why she's so hard to beat." Throughout the past 10 years, Lambert has been spending a lot of time and effort attempting to accomplish that goal. But it was not until last March that the Montreal native finally managed to place just her good friend and longtime rival for the world championship in short-track speed skating. Lambert had come close several times previously, winning bronze medals in the 1985 and 1987 world championships and silver medals in 1985 and 1987. And in both 1985 and 1990, Lambert defeated Daigle for the Canadian short-track championships only to fall short of victory during the world. In 1990 she skated all year without a loss, achieving a world record performance over 1,000 m—a first that was later shattered because it had not been timed electronically.

But this time, year, during the world championships in Amsterdam, she could only manage to place a disappointing fourth overall in the standings. "I was really strong and had the edge as everyone in 1990," Lambert recalled. "I even won the first race at the world," she went on, before pausing to add with a sheepish grin. "Then I screwed up."

Events took a different turn at March, when the world competition was held in Sydney, Australia. Daigle beat Lambert for the 1990 Canadian championships, which seemed to set the stage for yet another Daigle win at the worlds. But Lambert, taking part in her sixth world championship, dominated the three-day event. She won the opening 1,500 m. Daigle finished second. Then, Daigle won the 1,000 m. Going into the final 27-lap, 3,000-m event she and Daigle were tied at seven lead changes. But Lambert swept into the lead from the start and never relinquished it, holding off a late-race attack from Daigle to win the crown. Daigle took the silver medal. In view of all the years she had spent in Daigle's shadow, it was a satisfying win for Lambert. As she satiated at the time, "I feel really happy to have finally beaten Sylvie because every year it is between me and her."

Daigle and Lambert's win at the world last year, however, most of the experts give Daigle the edge in the race for the Olympic gold in the individual short-track event. And that includes national team head coach Nadia. "Sylvie is going to have the advantage at Albertville because the Olympic race is a 500-m sprint," he said. Nadia's "Sylvie is similar to me and she has better acceleration. She's a natural sprinter with phenomenal early speed. Nadia has more endurance and she can probably catch Sylvie's top speed, but I believe her legs are going to get up a head of steam. Over 500 m, unless she gets a break at the start, she simply may not have the time." Much the same applies in the other women's short-track event—the 1,000-m relay—where

quick acceleration is the major asset to each of the four teamsters upon 750 m. But whatever the eventual outcome, both Daigle and Lambert have the potential to raise Canadian speed skating to a level of international prominence that have not been achieved since the heady days of Boomer's double-gold performance. Daigle, currently, has established herself as an Olympic favorite in view of the world record she set last November. And Lambert's demonstration of championship form in March in Amsterdam could not have been more well timed. If both young women perform up to expectations at Albertville, it may well be a fitting end to a rivalry that has dominated the sport for most of a decade.

The two fierce competitors, both of whom are single, have reached the pinnacle of their careers through a shared determination and hard work. They each train 10 hours a week, including 13 hours on the ice and the rest in the gym. As top-ranked amateur athletes, they draw a monthly stipend of \$650 from Sport Canada. Lambert supplements her income through coaching and teaching physical education at the Univer-



DAIGLE AND LAMBERT

sity of Montreal. Daigle draws some financial support from sponsors.

While neither Daigle nor Lambert has announced definitive plans to retire, she has stated that Albertville's Olympic Games may be her last. "If I don't pick up a sponsor after the Olympics, I'll probably leave world-class competition," said Lambert, who holds a master's degree in physical education from the University of Montreal and has been contemplating a future in coaching or sports journalism. Daigle, a registered nurse who studies classical piano at her spare time, is also looking towards a change. She has been accepted for admission to medical school at the University of Montreal, a career decision that she postponed in September in order to train for Albertville. "I don't have the time for both medical school and speed skating, so I'm going to have to make that particular decision pretty soon," she remarked. Clearly the decade-long competition between Sylvie Daigle and Nadia Lambert is drawing to a close. They will both be missed on the short-track oval.

BARRY CANE in Montreal

Lambert (leading the pack) already won't champion at the Roller Derby on ice, she wants to win Olympic gold at Albertville



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The Lindros Factor

CANADA'S HOCKEY TEAM NEEDS MORE THAN ONE STAR TO WIN



A weary, sore and almost wounded Eric Lindros jumps against the wall of the winter-dressing room after a mid-January practice at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens. He is still fighting a two-week-old flu bug and so aches in his upper game from being recently high-tailed by Team U.S.A.'s Mike Muniz in a game played three days before. In a soft, almost inaudible monologue, Lindros responds with clichéd answers to the predictable questions posed by reporters. "Yes, the Olympics are a challenge," he says. "But there are other great players on the team," he comes, although the reporters crowded around his spot in the room appear bewildered in these teammates who are changing clubs by. But later, shrewd and standing in a restlessly dressing room, Lindros admits that the constant media attention has sapped some of his joy for hockey. Referring to the rest of his Olympic commitment, he sighs: "I'll get through it. Just 44 days to go."

The tired Lindros is a marked contrast to the ebullient teenager who, just five months earlier, sat in the same dressing room shoulder-to-shoulder with the country's best professional players as a member of his country's Canada Cup team. At the time, his featured with excitement—the most heralded player of his generation already playing at the pinnacle of his sport. But the months since have been tough on the 18-year-old star. His refusal to join the National Hockey League's Quebec Nordiques—partly for well-known political reasons—except him into the national unity experience. And he is clearly wounded by the experience. "Because of all the problems he's taken, Eric has to be constantly on his guard when they are paying controversial questions at him," says Team Canada assistant coach Terry Crisp, who added that Lindros was physically and mentally depressed in January that the public focus on Lindros also threatened to create a distracting environment for the other players of Team Canada as they made their final preparations for what may be one of the most competitive Olympic hockey tournaments ever.

The supporting cast observing Lindros is largely a collection of herbivorous, testosterone-



Lindros in pre-Games action against the Oilers, awaiting the big shot

eried young players. "We're not putting the weight of the world on Eric Lindros," insisted Crisp. "The other guys have a burden and they better carry it." But the current edition of Team Canada will emphasize defense, particularly against the Soviet Union and the former Soviet Union team now representing the Commonwealth of Independent States. And under Canadian head coach Dave King's preferred style of systematic team play, there is little margin for freewheeling, individual playmaking. "We do not play an attack game," said King as he walked his skates after the Toronto practice. "You won't see a lot of offense freewheeling from us."

Indeed, Team Canada captain Joe Jureta outlined a similar approach while he watched from the stands as his teammates played to a 5-1 tie in a multi-night exhibition game against the Toronto Maple Leafs. The speed's close-checking style "makes us a frustrating team to play against, but we still lack scoring punch," said Jureta. The absence of scoring ability, according to critics, was also a problem with the three previous Olympic teams coached by King. Indeed, Canadian players have been unable to score with frequency in Games competition since Canada won its most recent Olympic hockey medal, a bronze, in 1988. Some of King's former players have charged that a overly concerned with physical conditioning, trying to compensate for having less talented players than the best European by pushing them through grueling training regimes. Said Ronald Drapeau, who played on King's 1980 Olympic team: "The combination of not being allowed to take any risks offensively and conditioning that drove the guys into the ground took all the jump out of our game."

Still, members of King's current squad defend the coach's approach. Said Kitchener, Ont., native and team captain Brad Schlegel, 23: "Good conditioning is essential for an international game because of the bigger ice surface, and because there are so [Helsinki-endorsed] falls in Olympic hockey as there are in some NHL games."

Schlegel, who has played for the Olympic team twice (1988, when the King-led team shed off some of his tough conditioning drills as the Games approached), said some of King's practice methods cause cynicism among players. When all 19 of his Olympic teammates on the "Gentles" surface with two periods at the same time, several popular among European fans for developing quick pre-banking, Maple Leaf players looked on in bewilderment. "What in the world is the point of this?" Toronto centre Dave Huscroft—who last week agreed to play for the Olympic team himself—asked Leaf centre Mike Bellard.

The session was punctuated by belated profanity from assistant coach Crisp. The coach of the 1988 Stanley Cup-winning Calgary Flames, Crisp has brought a passion to his straightforward, no-nonsense Olympic team, evident even in the excited manner with which he answers questions. With a very smile, Crisp describes the tough physical play of Team

Canada's opponents. "The Russians will crush you, the Finns will crush you, and the Czechs will crush and gorge you," he says as he naps for delivery. "The Europeans have 40 ways had miserable teams, they just haven't been chosen for their dirty play."

Crisp also had high praise for the way Lindros has performed under intense media scrutiny. Said Crisp: "I've seen a lot of guys crumple under the pressure of bad press, but the kid has handled it." Since helping the Canadian team win the Canada Cup in September, Lindros has divided his playing time between the Olympic team and his regular, senior team, the Ontario

of Erie and all of us has been served. It was the worst experience of any life."

Indeed, there is little apparent resentment among his teammates at the attention given to the on-lost, Finnish Lindros, who is a high school graduate. "Sometimes it gets in the guys, but then you remember that he gets as much coverage and that's good," said fellow-team member Adam Plescia of Montreal. Plescia added that Lindros's name makes him a comfortable player to have on the team. "When the [U.S.] goes against the Americans, get chippy, be really hammered a couple of guys," said Plescia. "It's great to have such an intimidating player as your side."

The Quebec controversy surrounding Lindros does not appear to have polarized the dressing room either. To the Quebec City public, Lindros has a special place among a population of political activists that also includes Newfoundland Premier Clyde Wells, because of his combinatorial reform politics. Clearly aware of the explosive response that he could provoke, Lindros accepted Team Canada's 10th-anniversary exhibition game against the Nordiques. But he played in Montreal later that same month—and was booed throughout the game. Jureta, who was born in Pont-Rouge, 30 km west of Quebec City, said he has discussed the Quebec situation with Lindros only "superficially." But he insisted there is no bitterness between Lindros and the team's hockey-loving players. "I get along with him great, as well as with anyone on the team," said the personable Jureta. "He has been good for us because we get a lot more media attention, even in Quebec."



King: "You won't see a lot of forechecking from us"

team. "Miss Brady, Spitzky, M.S., nation Polon Jureta said: "People look for a chance to exaggerate conflict. We are hockey players, not politicians."

On Jan. 20, the team traveled first in Switzerland and Sweden to prepare for the Olympic tournament. The political controversy behind. For the players on Team Canada, it is winning medals, not fighting that is important in their minds.

"With a gold medal, it's not just your hockey career that benefits," said Jureta. "You could find a job with any company that wants to use your name. You get media and you can set for life." Then it was at stake the many of the players. But for Lindros, the most talented player of his generation, even a gold medal will not eliminate the barrier between him and a career as he chosen game.

BRUCE WALLACE

Tension On The Sledding Track

THREE DRIVERS VIE FOR TWO OLYMPIC SPOTS



It is an exercise that 35-year-old Greg Haydenbach performs at least once a day. With tightly focused concentration, he flies through a park of 56 post-course photographs of the new athletes that is the sliding Olympic bobsled run at La Plagne, France. Then, Haydenbach turns on a video player and watches a descent down the same hairpin-filled miles of ice. Through both imaginary runs, the stripping former track-and-field star mentally re-creates the action he would take to guide his hurtling 800-lb. sled down the twisting track in the slowest possible time. For Haydenbach, one of three bobsled drivers still competing for two positions on the Canadian Olympic team, the exercise "is like playing a mental video game." Added the Roussin Man, active: "The closer I can get, actually driving on the track, to reliving my aerial performance, the better my race."

The mental exercises are central to Haydenbach's goal: Olympic gold. "Bobsledding is a thrilling, exhilarating sport," Haydenbach told *Maclean's* during a break from training

recently at Calgary's Olympic Park. But after nearly a decade of sled racing, he acknowledged, "a lot of that has worn off." Now, he says, "The high for me is the chance to be the world's best in something."

But before Haydenbach gets that chance, he will have to finish first or second in a controversial three-way qualifying race for the two bobsled starting positions reserved for Canada at the Albertville Games. The sliding-death qualifying race is to take place on the Olympic run at La Plagne, on the Alps 80 km southwest of Albertville, on Feb. 13—just three days before the Olympic bobsled competition opens. His rivals are two often competitive, devoted dead-enders: Antoine, brother Chris Laro of Windsor, Ont., and Dennis Monsees, a safety service officer with the Calgary Electric System.

Laro and Haydenbach, the favorites, show little enthusiasm for the Feb. 13 competition. Said Haydenbach: "It's not in the arena." But Canada's best bobsled coach, Malcolm Lloyd, offers an apology for the selection race in both four- and two-man events: Ryan Lloyd "The Swiss, Germans and all the good athletes do it." And for the first time since Victor Eder's four-man crew won a gold medal at

Haydenbach driving to a silver medal at Canadian championships arena

the 1994 Games, the field in that qualifying competition gives Canada a chance this year to realize a place among the world's best. Of the two favorites, Laro's record gives him a slight edge. An occasional full-time skier, Laro, 39, raced to first-place victories in both two- and four-man bobsled events at the Canadian championships in Calgary in January. Haydenbach's sled placed second—by two-tenths of a second—in the four-man and fourth in the two-man event. In international competition, Laro has won one World Cup gold medal. Haydenbach's best was last February, when he placed fourth in the two-man event at the world championships in Altenberg, Germany. They both wanted to bobsledding in 1994 from the grueling track-and-field discipline. As Haydenbach puts it, he wanted "to try to be one of the world's best bobsledders instead of just another competitor in the discipline."

Eight years later, Haydenbach is proving his medal hopes on a combination of skill and strength. The sled will be essential to avoid disaster on the heavy sled hurtles through 19 straight-veering curves from the start of the La Plagne course to its finish. But to win, said Haydenbach, "you have to be strong, explosive, strong," in order to push the sled for a good start at the top of the chase. The 182-lb., three-foot, 11-inch Haydenbach is on a training regime that includes lifting 250-lb. weights for two hours at a stretch, three times a week.

Although much of his training schedule focuses on Calgary's Olympic Park—site of Canada's only Olympic-style bobsled race—Haydenbach lives in Toronto. He shares a basement apartment with his wife, Katherine Orl-Lynn Fyvie-Sweeney, 28—a hurdler with her sights on a track-and-field medal at the Summer Olympics in July at Barcelona. Haydenbach, who holds a master's degree in education from the University of South Dakota, supplements his bobsled-coach Sport Canada expert by substitute teaching. But he says that at night, as he drifts off to sleep, he dreams to be "aerial video" of the La Plagne bobsled run.

JOHN BOWSE in Calgary

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Julie Sutton: "We feel a responsibility because we really want to do our country proud."

Canada's Hot Rocks

YOUNG CANADIAN CURLERS BRING THE SPORT NEW PROMINENCE



At 13, the already has a handful of competitive curling to her credit. But for skip Julie Sutton and the rest of Canada's youthful women's Olympic curling team—two under Julie Sutton, Melissa Roloff, 15, and Keri Wilson, also 15—curling is more than a sport; it is an all-consuming way of life. The four young women, all university ice together in an apartment in Victoria, where they help one another maintain a strict physical regimen. All non-smokers, they swear off alcohol as well during competitions. They also spend many of their off-ice hours throughout the year working out at a gymnasium and going for brisk walks together. "The whole day is filled up with doing curling things," Julie Sutton told *McGraw-Hill*. "We don't leave any other way." The team members' constant interac-

tion, activity and youthful exuberance, she added, are the keys to its success. Declared Sutton: "We have a lot more stamina than the older teams."

The aggressive, determined style of the Sutton rink, and of the similarly youthful Canadian men's Olympic team led by skip Kevin Martin, 25, of Edmonton, matches the image that the Ottawa-based Canadian Curling Association is eager to project as it lobbies for a more levelled international respect for the sport. And did four years ago at the Calgary Winter Olympics, curling will appear in a demonstration sport at the Albertville Games, its counterparts ineligible for official medal competition. At the same time, Canadian curling officials, along with other members of the 38-nation World Curling Federation, will be pressing executive members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to accept a year-old petition for full Olympic standing. Until now that

petition has met resistance—in part, said Canadian IOC member Richard Pound, a Montreal lawyer, because of over-indebtedness about the sport's spectator appeal. "For a large percentage of the world," declared Pound, "curling is like watching paint dry." If curlers can reverse that perception, however, the sport could gain official status in time for the 1994 Winter Games at Lillehammer, Norway. If that day arrives, Julie Sutton said her rink could well be among the top rank of curlers pursuing the Olympic dream. For the Suttons, that would mark the culmination of a lifetime quest in the sport. The daughters of two curlers, the Suttons spent a good part of their early childhood standing curling bonspiel. The twins took up the game when they were 13, and two years later they entered their first competition. In 1986, with Julie playing skip and Julie playing third, the Suttons won the Canadian junior championship in Nor-

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and, Que. After that, Jodie briefly retired from the game to attend university and to spend a year living in Thailand. Jodie reunited with her sister two years ago, although by that time the twins had reversed their positions on the rink.

In Jodie's absence, Julie won several championships—and a reputation for self-confidence that sometimes bordered on cockiness. Among the titles she won is a silver 1987 Canadian junior championship, the 1988 world junior championship and the 1989 British Columbia women's championship. There were some setbacks, however: After missing several earlier shots and losing some critical games at the Scott Tournament of Hearts in Kelowna, B.C., in March, 1989, Jodie left the rink in tears. She later donated her rink, playing the second position for the remainder of the tournament. But by late March, competing in the same event at Sudbuck, Jodie had regained sufficient poise to lead her team to the Canadian championship over a rink led by New Brunswick's Heidi Hedberg—who is now seven older than Sutton. That victory earned Sutton and her teammates the right to represent Canada at the Olympics. Now Sutton—who says that she is more experienced at handling the pressures of competition—is characteristically optimistic about her team's chances at this year's Games. Declared Sutton: "We're going to be in the top three. There's no doubt in my mind."

Even though curling is still a low-profile event, it carries special prestige for Canadian competitors. While the American network has not admitted any coverage of the sport, CBC intends to provide more extensive broadcasts. That doesn't reflect the fact that both the Sutton and Hedberg teams are capable of strong finishes. It is also an indication of the immense popularity following that curling enjoys in Canada. According to a Canadian Curling Association survey, there are more than 750,000 active curlers in the country—more than in the rest of the world's countries combined. As well, there are 1,200 curling clubs in Canada, two-thirds of them in the last season previous. At the competitive level, curling has become a major television draw, with upwards of three million viewers tuning in for recent telecasts of the Canadian men's championship.

The sport also appears set to enjoy a bright future: a study conducted in 1996 by the Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation predicted that the number of active curlers will grow by 9.9 per cent annually over the next quarter-century—a growth rate that puts curling ahead of golf, hockey, tennis, skiing or squash. David Peden, general manager of the Ontario Curling Association, says that the accessibility of the sport is the key to its popularity. He added: "Curling is relatively easy to pick up, it's relatively inexpensive and it's something you can do over a lifetime. It also offers a range of opportunities, from single recreational to world championship competitors."

But curling, which first appeared in Scotland more than 400 years ago and was introduced to Canada in the late 18th century, has been far less popular in other countries. In the United States, where the television

spot of a sport is considered critical to its chances for Olympic acceptance, there are still only about 10,000 active players, most of them in states along the Canadian border.

As part of its effort to give medal status to the sport, the World Curling Federation has expanded its number of member nations to 25 from 17 over the past five years. Among the new recruits are Russia and several other Eastern European nations. The federation now meets the IOC requirement that before a sport can be considered for medal status, it has to be played regularly in 25 nations covering at least three continents. The federation currently has member associations in North America, Europe and Asia—including nations as disparate as New Zealand, Japan and Mexico. Still, according to former Canadian track star Bruce Kidd, who is now a professor of physical education at the University of Toronto, curling faces a struggle to win acceptance from the governing body overseeing the Olympic Games. "Since its inception, the IOC has had a bias towards athletic, European and Olympic sports," Kidd told *Maclean's*. "There has always been a bias against curling and sports like lawn bowling and curling that seem to be more laid-back."

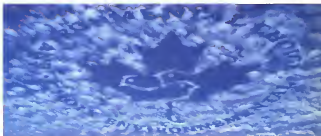
To its supporters, curling's image as the recreation of choice for street-wise curlers is undesired. The object of the game is to glide eight 43-lb. rocks—discs of granite with handles fastened to the top—as close as possible to the centre of a circular target in the ice at the far end of the rink, 120 feet away. Players also can fire shots to knock opponents' rocks out of play and protect their own. Within each four-player team, most of the tactical responsibility rests with the skip or leader, who usually throws the last two rocks. The greatest physical demands are on the other members, who busily sweep with brooms to help divert the rocks to the desired location.

Gerry Peckham, director of technical development for the Canadian Curling Association, notes that in a 15-to-25-second burst of highly competitive sweeping, a curler's heart rate can accelerate rapidly to levels similar to those experienced by athletes who swim or run a 100-m dash. Declared Peckham: "You don't go from the couch to the rink to produce that—it requires that you have to do so several times in a game that stretches up to three hours, and over two or three games a day."

For Julie Sutton, who took a three-month leave of absence from her job as a travel consultant to prepare for the Olympics, the demands of the sport are all-encompassing. Said Sutton: "Funny as it sounds, I don't have any other hobbies." She added: "It's like we're married to one another. We do a day and a night and a party. We're really kind of boring. But we feel a responsibility because we really want to do our country proud." In Alberta, that single-minded determination may also help curling to achieve a degree of acceptance on the international stage.

DEAN BERGMAN

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'Radical' New Moves

'MACH II WITH YOUR HAIR ON FIRE'—HOTDOGGING GROWS UP



The 256-m-course is a heart-stopping 30-degree angle. It runs down an Alpine mountainside dotted with about 80 moguls—mounds of rock-hard ice and snow as much as feet apart high. On Feb. 12, over 70 freestyle skiers will thrust their poles and propel themselves from the starting gate at Tignes, France, into that undulating white mass. Spraying ice chips and snow as they descend, skiers jumping chest-high as they cross the humps, they will seek a high speed from which to launch themselves. After penetrating or doing the splits while airborne, they will slam back onto the hill, tracing a straight descent line as they can manage, before flying off another big mogul. Launched again, travelling at up to 30 m.p.h. and 15 feet above the white blur of the slope below, they will again and then, before hanging back into the final array of moguls before the finish line. Said Vancouver stockbroker John Johnston, chairman of the International Ski Federation freestyle skiing committee: "The skiers describe that final flight and landing as 'Mach II with your hair on fire.'"

The best mogul skiers in the world will find the atmosphere of a global television audience as they vie for Olympic medals for the first time ever. More than two decades after the first daring skiers combined acrobatics with the downhill run in what was then called "hotdog" skiing, freestyle skiers have finally scored their Olympics. The three disciplines—moguls, ballet and moguls—were non-medal "recreational" sports at the last winter Olympics in 1988 in Calgary. Aerobic, high-flying flips and spins after the skier is launched from a ramp and ballet figure skaters like skaters and figure skaters performed on a giant slope in new demonstration sports again this year. But Johnston is determined that all three freestyle disciplines will be Olympic events when the next Winter Games are staged at Lillehammer, Norway, in 1994. Said Johnston, 61, one of the three original Canadian hotdog competitors: "There's no reason they shouldn't be



One of the three freestyle skiing disciplines is an official Olympic event for the first time.

full medal events. I will be doing a lot of hotdogging and moguls in France."

It took Johnston six years of persistent pressure as six federation officials to win freestyle skiing World Cup event status in 1986. The sport had first gained momentum after two skiers, Victor Skelton of Austria and American Tim Lince, made a promotional film called *Mogul Flip* (named for a type of backflip) for the American Hart Ski Company. Johnston and his associates on Grasse Mountain in Vancouver, the many good young skiers across North America, were growing bored with simply getting to the bottom of a mountain. Inspired by the Hart film, they started trying to duplicate the stunts. By the following year, Chevrolet and a U.S. publisher, *Skiing magazine*, sponsored three competitive hotdog events.

Recalled Johnston: "In the early days, it was just pull in many crazy things as you could to make the crowd scream."

After a decade of upstart skiers, organizational chaos and lawsuits among competing circuits, freestyle skiing under Johnston—its last act so far only international federative chaos—has evolved into three standardized disciplines, with the athletes' safety the top priority. There are now 13 annual World Cup events in Europe, North America and Japan, as well as the Olympics.

With early hotdog stars like Johnston, Wayne Wong of Vancouver, Darryl Rowe of Calgary and John Eaves from Quebec leading at the 1988s, Canadians have shared at the top of the sport. At Tignes, Jean-Luc Bessemer, 18, of Grand-Bûche, Que., the World Cup mogul of the year in 1991, at setting the gold-medal benchmark in the moguls and moguls. Philippe LaRoche, 25, of Lac-Béarn, Que., is a potential winner as his demonstration team, the women's moguls, a U.S. team led by Donna Wundt, 27, could sweep all three medals. Johnston, the 1976 bobsleiger, and the 1986 Olympic bobsleiger, has excitement as his sport's moment in the Olympic spotlight approaches. "It's going to be solid!" Given his track record, it could be three times as solid in 1994.

RAL QUINN



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Adrift In A New World Order

A LAST HURRAH FOR THE FORMER SOVIETS



As the Novogorsk Sports Center, a sprawling training complex 15 km northwest of Moscow, first appears to have stopped. There, some five-headed dachas once occupied by the Soviet elite, top-coach as have for years pushed their protégés to achieve international success—and reflect glory on the Communist system. Last week, athletes in red warm-up suits with the familiar C.C.P.P.—the Cyrillic initials of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics—embroidered on the backs during the event's balls, basking in final practice sessions before the Winter Olympic Games in Albertville, France. But the Soviet Union is no more. And the roughly 140 athletes preparing to set out from Novogorsk are doing so as members of a so-called United Team from five of the 11 cut-throat republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States that has succeeded the U.S.S.R. And even in that case of cooperative privileges, there are echoes of the turmoil and growing pressure outside the gates. Said Artur Destrnev, 23, who with his partner Natalya Mikhutskaya, is, as the reigning world champion in pairs figure skating. "When we come here, there is enough to eat, and we can concentrate on our training. But most of the time we live in St. Petersburg—where there is not enough food."

Behind its protective screens of fences and checkpoints, the Novogorsk institute is a refuge of relative peace and the political uncertainty and economic chaos of post-Soviet society. Destrnev's life from Destrnev's room, there are reminders of the old system's success: glass cases filled with trophies that include some of the 11 gold medals that Soviet athletes won at Calgary in 1988. The U.S.S.R. warm-up suits, by contrast, are new links with the glorious past than a sign of current hard times. With subsidies for athletes disappearing, so one has found the money for the political agreement among the five participating republics—to order new uniforms identifying the new confederation.

The collapse of the Soviet order has meant inevitable changes in the makeup of the team that now represents the Commonwealth of Independent States. All but 30 of the athletes expected to see competition in France are from Russia. The others are from Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. The newly independent Baltic republics are sending separate delegations. One Olympic veteran, Yekaterina Vukobrat, 31, will defend the gold medal that she won in Calgary four years ago in cross-country skiing as part of a semi-veteran team from Lacharna. Latvia, a power in bobsledding, is sending 11 athletes to the Games. And another 20 competitors will represent neighboring Estonia.

The Baltic athletes will compete under their own republic's flag. But the athletes of the new commonwealth will be sports refugees. With their lingering and seasonal athletes now on the scrap heap of history—and no replacements in sight—members of the C.I.S. team will compete under the Olympic banner. And gold-medal winners from the C.I.S. group will meet the victory days to the strains of Ludwig van

Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*, the official Olympic anthem.

Meanwhile, faced with the disappearance of former state subsidies, officials of the U.S.S.R. Olympic Committee, which once ran the Red Sports Machine, have had to swallow their pride and seek support from international corporations. Indeed, committee vice-chairman Alexander Rodnovid and last week that he had been two busy pursuing sponsors—including the German sporting goods firm Adidas—discovery about changing his organization's new athletes name. According to Rodnovid, the C.I.S. athletes will compete in uniforms devised of national symbols spun from a shoulder patch denoting the competitor's home republic. Said Rodnovid: "We are competing as the United Team of the National Olympic Committees of Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Uzbekistan. There is no way to get all of that on a uniform." In any event, added Rodnovid, athletes do not really care about such things. They just want to get out there and compete.

Shoulder patches were not a pressing concern for figure skater Destrnev last week. Instead, the gold-embroidered and jacket that he planned to wear during the Olympic pairs competition was carefully hung up above the clothes of skates, towels and winter clothes strewn across his assigned bedroom at Novogorsk. As Mikhutskaya took a nap in her room on the same floor, Destrnev acknowledged that events away from the rink in St. Petersburg sometimes made it difficult for them to concentrate on training. As he has studied the old system, Destrnev received a monthly stipend from Gosport, the all-encompassing state body that once provided financial support for more than 25,000 athletes and 1,200 coaches. It was 300 rubles, (equal of many monthly salaries in the local economy) that Gosport was part of the Soviet apparatus that funded last month, and Destrnev is uncertain if the Russian government will continue that support. Said Destrnev: "Food has been short at times in St. Petersburg. I like everything else, have found it hard to get things like meat and butter."

To be sure, the world title that Destrnev and Mikhutskaya won in March last March has a commercial potential that is worth far more than the national title subsidies of the old system. In fact, the couple's coach and 40-year-old Tatyana Medvedeva, a already representing the skaters' transition from socialist sport to professional entertainment as an ice

After 22 years crossing figure skaters, Medvedeva, at least, is adjusting with apparent ease to the business of sport. "I have learned a lot about skating with their financing and seasonal athletes now on the scrap heap of history—and no replacements in sight—members of the C.I.S. team will compete under the Olympic banner. And gold-medal winners from the C.I.S. group will meet the victory days to the strains of Ludwig van

The distractions of demonstrating domestic conditions and the loss of big money abroad are also present at the hockey practice, where 33

players compete for places on a 23-man first



Destrnev (left), Mikhutskaya: "Hard to get meat and butter"

players still enjoyed a relatively privileged life, with plentiful food supplies and adequate accommodations. And, he added, a first-place finish at Albertville will see the state Olympic committee scrambling to meet a promise to pay a hard-earned bonus of \$10,000 to each member of a gold-winning squad. Said Rodnovid: "We may be shocked into today's economic problems, but all of us have relatives who are not, and that sometimes makes it hard to concentrate on hockey."

While figure skaters and top hockey players can hope for hard-earned currency centers abroad—Rodnovid hopes to see day jobs in the new, lively Quebec, Nord-deux—there is no such escape route for many other athletes. One such is Valery Medvedev, who at 27 is one of the best linemen in the world, excelling in a sport that combines cross-country skiing and shooting. Medvedev is seeking to equal his 1988 Olympic feat of one gold and two silver medals, to compete with six teammates and six women on the C.I.S. hockey team. But last week, the slim, wiry Medvedev appeared less like a master of sport under the old Soviet system than a man worried about household expenses. Said Medvedev: "My wife, Olga, works as a secretary and we have a five-year-old son. With the amount I receive each month, Olga's wages and help from her parents, we have enough money for basic items—but nothing else." Added Medvedev: "Economic problems can be a distraction, making a harder to train."

His coach, 40-year-old Vladimir Tarasov, who coached that career, Tarasov, a former athlete who was gold at the 1980 Winter Games in Lake Placid, N.Y., said that such problems as missing dates his athletes receive enough food and vitamins sometimes overshadowed his coaching duties. Tarasov, in fact, is uncertain whether his once-subsidized job will continue after the Winter Olympics. "I never thought," he said, "that my country would be in the mess that it is now."

Despite those difficulties, the coaches and athletes of the first post-Soviet team sent to do well at Albertville. They know that with the collapse of the old system and hard times ahead, fewer youngsters will have the money to follow in the current winter's footsteps. As a result, Medvedev and other athletes who came together at Novogorsk are likely aware that Albertville may provide the last chance for a good showing by a team forged by a system that as long ago taught them only sports argument. Rodnovid expressed some uncertainty about the security of hockey—simply because he is not sure where he will find the promised bonuses.

NALCOLM GRAY in Moscow

CIS athletes practice



THE WINTER GAMES

A Legacy Of Gold

CALGARY'S PROFIT FUNDS FUTURE CHAMPIONS



The distinctive angular profile of the huge 16-m Olympic ski jump sits on the brow slope of a jaw-hill just west of Calgary, visible to drivers exiting or leaving the Alberta city along the Trans-Canada

Highway. For most of the year, the facility stands silent, unused and unused—as its critics predicted when the federal government spent \$102 million building it and four smaller jumps for the 1988 Winter Olympics. But the symbol is an insured one. Most of the expensive sports facilities built at a total cost of more than \$280 million for the Calgary Games—including the four smaller ski jumps—are now centers for community recreation. Others have become important training sites for Canadian competitors in the upcoming Lillehammer Games. But for former Calgary mayor Ralph Klein, who led the city's government during its Olympic winter four years ago, the legacy of the 1988 Games is neither for another reason. "They made Calgary an international city," Klein recalled with pride. "After the Games, you no longer had to explain where the city was."

In ways both concrete and intangible, the last Winter Olympics left an inheritance that continues to improve visitors and residents long after the Olympic flame—which blazed during the Games from the top of the 191-m Calgary Tower—burned out on Feb. 28, 1988. For one thing, other imposing facilities surrounded the ski jump at Canada Olympic Park. Among them is the country's only Olympic-scale bobsled and luge run and a superb array of associated modern training facilities. "No other country has anything like it," said bobsledder Greg Heberich, who is a medal contender in his sport largely because of the park's suitability for training and competition. Also still operating are a speed skating oval and a twin rink arena at the University of Calgary, the downtown Olympic Saddledome, home of the 1989 Stanley Cup-winning Calgary Flames, a sprawling cross-country ski facility at Canmore, 95 km west of Calgary, and the spectacular Nikelita Alpine skiing centre, 90 km to the southwest of the city.

But equally significant is the financial cost gap that the Games left behind. The 16-day event returned a surplus of \$70 million, which was divided between the Canadian Olympic Association and the Calgary Olympic Develop-

Fireworks over Canada Olympic Park—the Games put Calgary on the map

ment Association. That amount, together with federal contributions and money raised from corporate sponsors, produced a \$150-million Games legacy for sport. One \$70-million fund, administered by the Calgary association, paid a \$3.8-million annual income from investments, roughly half of which goes to maintain several of the former Olympic facilities. Part of the balance of the fund's income is reinvested.

Of the facilities turned over to the public after the Games, the former Olympic speed skating oval has proven to be among the most popular. Nearly 30,000 people a week use its 400-m enclosed speed skating track, its rink for hockey and figure skating and a 410-m running track. The 4,000-seat oval has also been the site of numerous world and North American speed skating competitions.

By contrast, the imposing 16-m ski jump at Olympic Park, while becoming a local tourist attraction, has not been used extensively since 1988 because of its exposure to nearly constant high winds that pose a hazard to jumpers. The Nikelita ski area is also underused. Although it has been the site of some training by the Canadian national team and a handful of competitions, it is now mainly used for family ski outings.

Still, for many city residents, another legacy of the Games is their personal memories. "It was a great experience being here. We were used to just it off and to do a great job, despite the hassles and disappointments looking up to it," said Sandy Dougill, a Calgary book executive and one of the 16,750 volunteer Games workers whose names are inscribed on the walls of the Olympic Park's Olympic Hall of Fame. Their efforts gave Calgary an international reputation that may be its most important Olympic legacy of all.

JOHN HOWSE is in Calgary



Welcome to the taste of Five Star.

Next Stop, Barcelona

CANADIANS HOPE TO STRIKE GOLD IN SPAIN



The moment of the last Summer Olympic Games remains vivid—and painful. The two most memorable swimmers from the 1988 Seoul Games are three-time gold medalist Ben Johnson, hotheadedly raised high, as he crossed the finish line of the 100-m track in an almost apocryphical 9.97 seconds—and that Carol Anne Lederman, *chef de mission* of Canada's delegation to the Seoul Games, as she announced three days later that she had reclaimed Johnson's gold medal after he had been found to have used an illegal anabolic steroid. Now, as swimmers away from another Summer Games, opening on July 25 in Barcelona, a new generation of Canadian athletes is racing, swimming, basking and working themselves into fighting form. Their unstated ambition, beyond even the desire to win Olympic gold, silver or bronze, is to dispel the lingering shadow of Seoul.

Barcelona's refurbished Montjuïc Stadium, a \$2.5-billion Olympic breeding boom



Declared double-blind Michael Smith: "We had a terrible tragedy in Seoul, but I really believe we can be competitive without steroids."

New competitive Canada's theme will be at Barcelona is unpredictable, that they will be as drug-free as a soft new federal anti-doping program can make the approximately 400 young men and women who will be picked for the team. Canadian preparations for Spain exceed another new twist, as well as a sea change in training ethics, top officials have banished the use of all-cities athletes that, they now assert, led to Johnson's disaster to cheat. Instead, they are urging Canadian athletes simply to enjoy their Olympic experience. Said Sheri Mahy of Montreal, chief operating officer of the Canadian Olympic Committee: "There is now such pure desire to participate that it is going to be the easiest at any price."

Despite these modest goals, many Canadian coaches and athletes predict that Canada could see its medal count in Barcelona surpass the

three gold, two silver and five bronze won in Seoul last century (Johnson's). That confidence rests on first place and top-three finishes by more than a dozen Canadian athletes in international competitions over the past 24 months. Among the sports in which Canadians have excelled are the decathlon, swimming, swimming and synchronized swimming, boxing, jockeying, equestrian dressage and diving. In the event of a surprise triumph, Montreal synchronized swimmer Sylvie Fichette scored seven perfect 10s at Perth, Australia, in the world championships in her sport last January. For her part, Smith won the gold at the world decathlon championships last year in Austria.

For athletes participating at the Barcelona Games, the experience is certain to be an accessible regimen of how many medals Canadians win. With six medals to go before the arrival of 15,000 athletes from more than 160 countries, the two million residents of the ancient Catalonian capital are watching the final touches being put on one of the most ambitious Olympic building booms ever.

To prepare for the Games, Barcelona is spending \$2.5 billion to build new Olympic facilities and public works projects. By comparison, Korea spent just over \$1.2 billion on facilities for the Seoul Games. The main Olympic village in Spain will be the elegant 60,000-seat Montjuïc Stadium, an outdoor facility built in 1959, and the new 15,000-seat Pisu de Espana. San Jordi sports arena, designed by Japanese architect Arata Isozaki, for indoor sports events.

Montjuïc Stadium, where Smith, 24, will pit his skills against the world's best. The no-frills, 55,000-seat arena, built just past the finish line, the 1959-60 and 1984-85 track events, the high jump, pole vault, long jump and the 100-m hurdles. The decathlon is a contest regarded as the most grueling at the Olympics—and one for which Smith is preparing by working out almost eight hours a day at the University of Toronto athletic centre. Smith, a student at the university's computer faculty, typifies the new style of Canadian Olympic athlete: he is an enthusiastic exponent of clean competition. "If I have advanced younger athletes for the better, that's good," said Smith. "But I just want to be equal and do the best I can."

Across the country, world single-ski champion Silvano Lussan, 27, trains daily at Elk Lake, on the outskirts of Victoria. The five-foot, 135-lb. Lussan, a decorated but arched Timberline Lodge of Resonance for the



world title in Vienna last August. Back home, the reportedly people's pick took 28th craft across the pond a depleted surface, trying to maintain her standing in the Intest in the world. "There is a new wave of excitement," said Lussan of her prospects in the team last week. "We're turned up the intensity."

Despite a disappointing record in 1988, as silver and one bronze medalist, Canada's swimmers have long placed in the top ranks of world competition. Now, a new generation of Canadian swimmers has emerged, led by world short-course backstroke champion Mark Tewksbury, 23, of Calgary. While acknowledging that Canada lags still reputation from traditional German, American and Australian rivals, Olympic swimming coach David Johnson of Rimouski was still optimistic. Said Johnson: "If we overtake them, we can still be in the middle." And four years after a disappointing Olympic debut at Seoul, Tewksbury will see Smith's determination to turn in the best performance of his life in Barcelona. "I have been in two world cups and the Olympics," said the swimmer. "I just want to do the best I can."

Canada's heaviest, canoeable, hope to repeat the success at the ring that saw them return

from Korea with one gold, one silver and one bronze medal. But first they have to qualify for the Olympics in the various weight divisions at international matches to be held in the Dominican Republic this spring. For his part, middleweight Chris Johnson, 20, of Kitchener, Ont., who won the middleweight gold at the 1996 Commonwealth Games in New Zealand, has developed a unique training method. Traveling comfortably training camp, he works out in a ring built in the dirt floor of a dairy plant's warehouse in his home town. Said the boxer: "Training the way I do keeps me hungry."

While Canada's heaviest struggle to punt their way to victory, who synchronized swimmer Fichette, 26, the reigning world champion, stakes her Olympic hopes on grace and endurance. After her flawless performance at the 1993 world, Fichette confidently predicts that she will surpass her Japan next summer. Said the swimmer: "My nation will be perfect."

In team sports like soccer, volleyball and basketball, Canada has traditionally fared poorly, and most of the national teams are now preparing for still Olympic qualifying tourna-

Fichette using grace and endurance to score seven perfect 10s and win the world synchronized swimming championship

ments with no certainty of winning berths at Barcelona. Linda Wilson, who manages Canada's Vancouver-based Olympic success team, expresses a cautious hope of many such sports that experience will secure a respectable showing against both traditional powerhouses as the Americans, Chinese and Germans. Said Wilson: "We have a high work ethic and play for one another. That will be our strength."

But plainly, Barcelona will be more than just another Olympic contest for Canadians. In the wake of Ben Johnson's disgrace, an inquiry by Charles Duhon, now chief pastor of Ontario, exposed widespread abuse of steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs by top Canadian and international athletes. Last April, the federal government ordered the Canadian Anti-Doping Association to carry out random drug tests on Canada's top athletes. Casey Wade, the Ottawa-

based association's director of programs, said that a 1992 show, it could conduct as many as 2,500 tests on Canada's top athletes, including all Olympians.

But while Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and the Scandinavian countries—more of these Olympic powers—have tight, independent anti-doping programs, many other Olympic countries do not. The United States relies on schools and individual sports associations to police their own athletes—the same approach that caused a Canada out the Johnson scandal. And the Germans are still trying to weed out drug use among athletes from that country's formerly Communist east who have long relied on their. Acknowledged Wade: "There is still a lot of work to do automatically."

Clearly, double-blind Michael Smith's conviction that hard work—and hard work alone—will carry him and his teammates to the medal stand in Spain is shared by hundreds of other Canadian athletes. Millions of their fellow citizens, eager to lay to rest the ghost of a brilliant victory that turned to humiliation in Seoul, can only hope that they are right.

TOM FENWELL

Whose Games Are they?



While directors of the 1996 Olympic torch relay, Pierre de Coubertin, the French aristocrat who is credited with creating the modern Olympic Games, were supposed to be dead. Baron de Coubertin, during his travels to recreate the ancient Greek Olympics in what he perceived to be their purity of purpose and position, convened an international conference in Paris in 1894 to "propagate the principles of amateurism"—sport for the love of

great heights on skis. Pader had said publicly that his charges were not performing seriously enough to compete in the Olympics. When officials of the British Olympic Association excluded, banning jumper Eddie the Eagle Edwards from their Albertville team last week, they conveyed complaints from around the world. Edwards had failed to measure up to new qualifying standards. But both controversies reaped larger issues about the spirit and purpose of the Olympics. Are the Games held primarily for the enjoyment of the athletes, or for the amusement of the audience? Are they to encourage understanding and peace among nations, or to stimulate national pride—and profits?

Those questions have dogged the modern Olympics throughout their growth from amateur beginnings 96 years ago to their status now as worldwide television entertainment, a multimillion-dollar enterprise financed largely by advertising, consumer and corporate. Measured by our times, their hundreds of participants and a global audience, they are a hugely successful endeavor. By a more critical gauge, success has tarnished the Olympic creed proclaimed by the father of the modern Games, the French aristocrat Pierre de Coubertin, in the year before his death in 1902: "The important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning, but taking part." From the original Olympic motto, "swifter, higher, stronger," the emphasis and attention has shifted to the wealth, highest and strongest—in the Games, at the time, and on television.

Eddie Edwards, an exception to that pattern in 1988 at Calgary, where he gained renown by landing a clumsy fall in two jump events, concedes that his exclusion from the Albertville Games means that the Olympic creed is dead. "It's not the 'taking part' that matters anymore," he said. And Duško Pudaric, a coach in Yugoslavia before he began training Canadian jumpers four years ago, requested a quantity limited by conflicting Olympic objectives. "It's not like I was expecting medals for our team at the Olympics," he said. "It was like they only wanted to have fun there."

In fact, fun is part of what the Games are supposed to be about. Baron de Coubertin, during his travels to recreate the ancient Greek Olympics in what he perceived to be their purity of purpose and position, convened an international conference in Paris in 1894 to "propagate the principles of amateurism"—sport for the love of

sport. But he also espoused other, more serious objectives which, a century later, seem less clearly noble.

De Coubertin's original inspiration arose from his country's humiliating defeat during the Franco-Prussian War, when he was a boy in 1870. He argued that French education should introduce sports on the model of the English public school system in order to develop future leaders who were strong in body and character as well as in mind, patriots with a will to win, and to raise an empire. The Olympics were to be not only an instrument to develop a new class of world-class athletes in France, but a way to generate international fellowship at the same time. And along with de Coubertin's notion of developing a class of amateur superstars was a commitment to provide sponsorship for the worthy poor. "Patronage is more than a virtue," he said. "It is a duty."

After the Games began in 1896, de Coubertin's principles were often hard to reconcile in practice. Alongside the pressure to win in his creed's stated ideal that "the essential thing in life is not conquering, but fighting well," the real-world clamoring at the modern Games often challenges the ideal of international unity. Patronage undermines amateurism.

As a result, the stewers in the perennial questions hanging over the Olympics have been equivocal. Often arguing that politics has no place in sport, the governing authorities of the International Olympic Committee have backed the creation of conditions for political reasons. But they allowed Hitler's Germany to stage both Winter and Summer Games in 1936—when the slogan de Coubertin's recorded creed was broadcast—as a blatant glorification of racism. They permit the participation of individual athletes who make their income from sport and sponsorship, but ban "professional" teams.

Against the complaint that the Games have been corrupted by politics, professionalism and money stands the argument that television and commercialism have transformed the Olympics into a truly global festival, shared by billions of people, most of whom could never dream of affording the expense of attending the Games. As it happens, "game" is a word that evolved from languages spoken in Northern Europe at a time, about 17 centuries ago, when the ancient festival, held at Olympia every fourth summer or winter games for more than 1,000 years, died out under pressure from Christian killejoys. The root words of "game"—*game* and *gamere*—mean "joy" and "amusement." At Albertville, and this summer at Barcelona, there is sure to be plenty of both, along with controversy. After that, the modern Olympic Games may last 906 or as many as go before they overtake the ancient.

CARL MOELLERS

Attendees light the flame for Albertville at Olympia, Greece, in December; joy

THE SEX FACTOR

NEW REPORTS OF AN AFFAIR COULD WRECK FRONT-RUNNER WILLIAM CLINTON'S BID FOR THE WHITE HOUSE

It was a brief moment of celebration—the calm before the coming scandal. At the PVA Colosseum, a trendy Washington nightclub where great pop-music covers foot above the late Carreras colosseum, Jackie Lee and the Stricken-Up Fosse were rocking on the hardwood floor on the cramped dance floor, nearly 1,000 young Democrats had paid \$50 to glimpse the presidential candidate who, weeks before the first ballot had yet to be cast in New Hampshire's Feb. 18 primary, had already been mentioned by the press and politicians as the unofficial Democratic front-runner. Arkansas Gov. William (Bill) Clinton, making his way through the crowd with his blood-soaked wife, Hillary, Clinton leaped onto the stage and picked up his career microphone. In gray jeans, his eyes red-rimmed with fatigue, he joined the band in a raucous rendition of James Brown's "I Feel Good." His playing was often wooden, and as he picked later in the midnight crowd, "The secret is always to play with a good, loud band." But only two days later, Clinton found himself being drowned out by another, less welcome orchestration—the uproar over damaging new allegations of past philandering.

In the Sher, a supermarket tabloid based in Tarrytown, N.Y., a sometime Arkansas caller sugar coated Governor Clinton's career, that, beginning in 1977, she had carried on a three 12-year affair with Clinton in Little Rock, Ark., apparently only miles from the governor's mansion. By week's end, those accusations—which the tabloid bought for a fee that Clinton estimated at \$100,000—had overwhelmed his campaign. Desperately seeking to halt the damage, he scheduled an eleven-hour appearance with his wife on a post-Super Bowl edition of CBS's 60 Minutes.

His vivid discussion of how easily electoral battles can shift, the state media that had



Clinton with wife Hillary at a Washington food rioter damage control

held him as the leader of the Democratic pack only days before he suddenly found himself in the shadow of his wife's scandal. For many, the scandal reflected another Democratic front-runner who has been derailed by a sex scandal in May, 1987: former Colorado Governor Gary Buse. Said William Schneider of Washington's American Enterprise Institute: "Clinton's status was always fragile. It's all based on one perception, the perception that he

can win, and that can vanish overnight. If he makes a mistake, everybody doubts him—and like they did with Buse."

For Clinton, the scandal that one Washington commentator christened "Buse, Buse and Buse"—after alleged excerpts from Fowles's acerbic taped phone conversations with Clinton over the past year—was not entirely a surprise. Only the week before, the state tabloid had launched its first assault on

him, reviving allegations of his warring first fiancé in a 1979 Arkansas lawsuit by a disgruntled former state employee. His accuser, Larry Nichols, had been fired for asking handouts of unsolicited office calls trying to drum up support for the Nicaraguan contra rebels. In the end, scheduled to be heard on March 23, Nichols claimed that women with whom Clinton was allegedly having extramarital affairs, including Fowles and Elizabeth Wood—Miss America, 1982.

All five had previously denied his claims. And

he, reviving allegations of his warring first fiancé in a 1979 Arkansas lawsuit by a disgruntled former state employee. His accuser, Larry Nichols, had been fired for asking handouts of unsolicited office calls trying to drum up support for the Nicaraguan contra rebels. In the end, scheduled to be heard on March 23, Nichols claimed that women with whom Clinton was allegedly having extramarital affairs, including Fowles and Elizabeth Wood—Miss America, 1982.

As Clinton downed himself one concentrated dinner on this week, he is gambling that the public mood has changed since May, 1987, when reporters from *The Miami Herald* seized a sometime model named Donna Rice surreptitiously entering Gary Buse's Capitol Hill townhouse. In the subsequent media frenzy, Buse became the subject of sinister psychological speculation on his possible political death wish and the butt of raucous late-night talk-show jokes which, perhaps more than any other factor, sent his candidacy within five days. Now, with this year's presidential campaign plunged into another peculiarly American public morality play over a candidate's private life, the Clinton case has again raised the theory many that emerged from the Buse affair just how much does the public have a right to know about its presidential candidate's private lives, and how far should the media go in probing what Clinton has called "moral police?" Already, two weeks ago, he became the second candidate in five years to be confronted by a reporter asking, "Have you ever committed adultery?" Clinton replied: "If I had, I wouldn't tell you."

As the candidates and the press struggle with the answers to those questions in the coming weeks, the only real measure of the damage to Clinton's campaign will be determined by New Hampshire voters. But some experts said that, as with Buse, the sexual allegations against Clinton in fact mask a more substantial subject—some very real doubts about the gap between his sequestered rhetoric and his ill-defined record in Arkansas, where critics nicknamed him "Sticks, Yellie." And one, one of the most serious gaps in that record was his lack of foreign-policy experience—a gap that he quickly dismissed in a conversation with *Maclean's* last week. Pointing out his degree in international studies from Washington's Georgetown University, he said two trips he had made to Canada—the first to address a 1987 conference of only newsmen in Montreal. The prophetic title of his speech? "Unnecessary Losses: How to Avoid Them."

At last week, "We are more committed, more stable and more in line now, because when the tough times come we don't cut off."

Clinton seemed caught off guard by Fowles's apparent confession. Although none of their taped phone conversations offered any confirmation of an extramarital affair—Bill Clinton claimed he was merely removing her disingenuous calls—the tape-recorded further questions about their relationship and about why Fowles landed a job at an \$18,500-a-year receptionist at the state's employment appeals board last June after a referral from the governor's office. In response, Clinton's own page vividly issued a copy of a January 1981 letter from Fowles's lawyer to a Little Rock radio station, threatening legal action if use of its talk-show hosts "wrongfully and unethically alleged an affair." Said Clinton: "She took away to publish a story that the first lawyer to say was absolutely defamatory a year ago."

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MARC MC DONALD in Washington

JUSTICE, CLAN-STYLE

Despite international calls for democracy, a Cuban firing squad executed Eduardo Diaz Borge, 50, following a trial in which he was found guilty of terrorism. Cuban officials connected the death sentence of the two accomplices to 30 years imprisonment. Last Dec. 20, authorities captured the three armed men. Cuban soldiers who fired in Mexico, shortly after they landed on the Communist island's northern coast on an airborne display.

AGUINO'S CHOICE

Philippine President Corason Aquino, who is not running for re-election, on Sunday formally declared that Fidel Ramos, a former leader of the New People's Army, is his choice of successor in the May 11 presidential balloting. Aquino's choice threatened to split the pro-administration camp, which has named Speaker of the House Ramon Mitra as its candidate. But also said that Aquino believed in Ramos' moral integrity and means the best shot of another decade of stability. In Manila, the widow of ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

A FATAL FLIGHT

An Air India flight, flying to Simsbury, France, from London, crashed into a mountain, killing 83 passengers. Nine people survived, but Donna Patterson, 30, of San Jose, Calif., was believed to be among the dead. It was the third accident in five years for the A320, an aircraft now jet built by the European Airbus consortium. Critics of the aircraft say that its computer-controlled fly-by-wire system, which sends commands signals electronically rather than hydraulically, is too sophisticated for human operators.

CRACKDOWN IN ALGERIA

A week after crushing parliamentary elections, Algeria's new military-backed regime accused prominent Muslim fundamentalist opposition leader Abdelhak Benhabib, an exiled politician, of plotting a coup. Benhabib's Islamic Salvation Front had swept last month's elections in December and was poised to win control of parliament in a Jan. 16 runoff—a prospect that led the North African country's secularists to fear power.

A PHONE-TAP SCANDAL

Ireland's Progressive Democrats threatened to pull out of the Parnell Park coalition government this week unless Prime Minister Charles Haughey resigns. Haughey, 68, has been implicated in a 1982 scandal in which government officials tapped the phones of two Dublin parliamentarians to try to track cabinet leaks.

THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

Pride for the humbled

Donor nations co-ordinate massive aid

The foreign aircraft landing at Moscow's Sheremetyevo International Airport, their cargo holds filled with humanitarian aid, are an almost constant topic of conversation in the former Soviet Union. The aid, largely food and medicine, is a welcome relief to governments and citizens who are hard-pressed to cope with the painful transition of the new Commonwealth of Independent States to a free market economy. But many people say that they are relieved that the outside superpower has been removed from the scene of an international league. At Moscow's Dvoretskiy School 206, home to 258 orphans and neglected children, director Nicholas Senosov expressed his appreciation for two shipments of food and clothing mostly from Germany, over the past 18 months. "It would be very hard here without this help," he said, but, reflecting many Russians' conflicting emotional response to foreign assistance, also added: "If it goes on for too long, people will take it for granted and start to believe that others should help them."

Organized in Russian style, the number of charity flights will increase drastically. At a two-day conference in Washington last week,



Moscovites unloading American food: conflicting emotions

representatives of 47 countries, including Canada, met to co-ordinate massive humanitarian and technical aid to 12 former Soviet republics. President George Bush announced that he would ask Congress to approve a \$740-million aid package for the emerging states,

raising the U.S. commitment to about \$2.8 billion. And Secretary of State James Baker announced that a \$100-million U.S. airlift of food and medicine would begin on Feb. 18.

Canada will launch its own airlift this week. External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall was scheduled to be in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev on Jan. 27 to meet the first of five planes bringing in 66 million worth of medicine and medical supplies. Canada has pledged about \$3.3 billion in aid, mostly food credits that benefit Canadian farmers. McDougall said that Canada will consider a request from Russian President Boris Yeltsin for technical help in the oil and gas sectors when he returns Ottawa this week.

In total, international pledges of emergency aid exceed \$25 billion. But many experts maintain that donors must now decide who is going to provide the huge sums that the new states will need to reform their economies. Robert Herscovici, vice chairman of the U.S. government-backed giant Golden Gate International Corp., said that the commonwealth will require \$4.7 billion to \$23 billion annually over the next five years. Some nations may confront that challenge at a meeting in London in the spring. Until then, a handful of

superpowers will have to step in itself to accept any more additional foreign aid.

ANDREW FELDERS with **MARGOLYN GREY** in Moscow and **MELARY MACKENZIE** in Washington

THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS

They met last September on a train platform in Berlin. John Powell, a Washington court-coverage writer who plays guitar in a D.C. jam band, struck up a conversation with several children involved in the Technical Institute of Lemnizgrad (now St. Petersburg). Later, back in Ottawa, Powell, 63, told a radio audience about the problems of his new acquaintances—their stories of deprivation, hunger and empty school desks. The day the story was broadcast, Powell and his wife were delivered more than 25 bags of food and clothing to his home. And that was just the start. In December, Aeroflot agreed to fly to Moscow two tons of food and clothing that Powell had collected. The Russian citizens distributed the shipment to 458 needy people in St. Petersburg. In January, Powell

sent another four-ton cargo. "But that was just small potatoes," he said. "They need assistance here." Now, Powell is applying for 250 more of goods, and offers from sympathetic Canadians are pouring in. "One farmer called me saying he had one horse, one cow, half a pig and a chocolate bar," said Powell. "I'd take the chocolate bar was from his daughter."

In sending gifts to the economically devastated former Soviet Union, The Salvation Army sent food, clothing and beds to Russia before Christmas. The Canadian Executive Service Organization is planning to send more than 40 volunteers, most of them retired business executives or government officials, to the newly independent Baltic states as consultants.

In Toronto, Olga Kolchinsky-Rosenfeld and her husband, Yehon, a nephew of Russia's last czar, Nicholas II, have launched an aid program named after Tsar's mother, the Grand Duchess Olga Alexandrovna, to supply eyeglasses, hospitals, and other relief efforts. Meanwhile,

the Ukrainian-Canadian community has raised more than \$1 million for victims of the 1996 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. And Orthodox churches in Montreal, Vancouver and Toronto have sent gifts ranging from flowers to lapel-ornament crosses.

But some donors have encountered obstacles. Powell and his wife are in the midst of a push that he sent in January with missing. And Ottawa's own former Soviet-buster, St. Joseph's, said that he could find anyone to accept his donations. Last year, Baker wrote to Mikhail Gorbachev to offer the then-Soviet president the most from one of his wives. Aeroflot agreed to provide transportation. But 700 lb. of Baker's fruits, supposed help is still in storage at an Ottawa airport because he has yet to receive word from the Komsomol that anyone will accept it. St. Joseph's: "You're better off chucked off." But, he added, not as frustrated as the Russians who have no meat on their tables.

MARY SEMEL

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Imaging By All Means

met in 1986, when both were executive students at the University of Western Ontario in London. Thirteen years later, Nichol and a fellow Western graduate, Richard Corne, were working as management consultants in Toronto when Nichol started doing help on the struggling Loblaws chain. Their first assignment was to accompany their new boss on a tour of European retail stores—including such chains as Britain's Marks and Spencer, which specializes in developing and selling its own brands of popular food items.

Recalls Nichol, "We [Western] showed us that stores could succeed with a limited number of superior products at competitive prices."

Nichol's mission as a home-brand is in part to replicate the success of those European chains. But he has also tried to emulate another specialty store in the United States that cater to well-to-do consumers with a taste for exotic and unusual products. In both cases, his marketing efforts go far beyond the conventional newspaper advertisements that are a staple of the supermarket industry in North America.

Nichol appeared as three half-hour commercials promoting new President's Choice grocery stores on Canadian and private television stations in Buffalo, N.Y., and available in TV cable subscribers throughout southern Ontario. Produced at a cost of \$300,000, the commercials drew an average of 111,000 Ontario viewers each, according to A.C. Nielsen Co. of Canada Ltd., a market research firm. But Nichol's strongest marketing tool is the

leader's Report, a quirky newsletter distributed three times a year to 30 million homes at a cost of about \$400,000 per issue. "It looks like a cheap comic book filled with funny-looking jokes and long-winded stories," says Nichol. A survey conducted last year by Search Research Services Ltd. found that, on average, readers spent 39 minutes reading the report, which is peppered with recipes, cartoons, bad jokes and



Restocking shelves in a New York City supermarket sophisticated

material mentions that explain how Nichol discovered such new products. "There is no little romance in it," laughs Nichol sitting in his boardroom near a heavily cluttered outline of a house map, which includes sales pitches for hot-dog, Israeli dill pickles and French-style jam. "I want people to get excited about food."

Here in the past, Nichol wants people to buy his products and shop in his stores. That is why he plans to introduce 300 new products

this year alone. He is also planning to launch a chain of savings-and-bank offers in partnership with Toronto-based Royal Trust. Known as President's Trust Personal Services, the subsidiary would offer Loblaws customers the convenience of in-store banking and a debit card enabling them to deduct the cost of their groceries from their bank accounts.

In his campaign to be different, Nichol has occasionally stumbled. The Green line launched in 1988, drew harsh criticism from some environmentalists, who accused the company of labeling that certain of its products were "environmentally friendly." In hindsight, Nichol says that he erred by grouping together under the Green label products that were intended to help the environment with others that were designed for health-conscious shoppers. "I made a mistake with Green food—I confused the consumer," says Nichol. "But my thing is a decision. I just give consumers what they want."

So far, at least, that approach has proven remarkably successful, both in Canada and the United States. Indeed, in some respects Nichol appears ideally suited to the challenges of the U.S. market. American, he says, tend to admire winners, while Canadians often despise their leaders. Nichol, "We don't like losers." Despite that, Nichol has achieved a high level of public recognition in Canada—and he now appears determined to do the same in the United States.

BEST IDEAS

A 'BRUTAL' WAR AT THE CHECKOUT

Low profit margins and brutal competition have traditionally been facts of life in the retail food industry. But in the past few years, the pressures on Canada's major grocery chains have intensified dramatically. Hurt by the recession and higher taxes, manufacturers watching prices more closely than before, many see the shopping as discount warehouses, where prices are often far lower than at supermarkets. Last week, one of Canada's largest grocers declared to fight back. The Ontario-based Loblaws supermarket chain announced that it was slashing prices on almost 500 items at its 200 Loblaws and affiliated A&A stores in Ontario and western Quebec—a gesture aimed at Price Chub's Canada Ltd. of Montreal, a U.S.-owned chain with 10 stores in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia.

Loblaws' move touched off a wave of price cuts by other Ontario-based grocers, beginning with Kevin Daoust's, a researcher for the Consumers Association of Canada, called "the most aggressive round of price-cutting in the supermarket industry in some years."

Loblaws officials said that the company's new "Club Price" —a daily "world's best" price—was as low as or lower than those of the Price Club on items ranging from orange juice to diapers. Indeed, the aggressive pricing strategy of Price Club and Costco Wholesale Canada, another U.S.-owned discount chain with ten outlets in Western Canada, has become a "bargain race for price wars," says Toronto-based retail consultant John Winter. Adds James Nutcracker, a spokesman for Canada Safeway Ltd. of Calgary, Western Canada's largest supermarket chain: "There is no question that price is the primary concern of retailers these days."

Loblaws has undertaken to maintain its price cuts for at least 12 weeks. Among other products, the company is offering 36-kg boxes of laundry detergent for \$12.99 and 10-kg bags of

flour for \$4.49—in both cases, the exact amount charged by Price Club. Loblaws group president William Rapp called his company's action a "direct attack on the Price Club" and challenged other grocers to join the war.

Several of Loblaws' competitors responded by lowering some of their own prices. But they also questioned Loblaws' ability to match Price Club's prices for more than a few weeks at a time. Tim Carter, director of public affairs for the Ontario Grocery Ltd., who supplies 1,300 supermarkets in eight provinces, said that the supermarket industry has suffered a sharp fall in profits in recent years, from an average of about two per cent in 1970 to 1 per cent last year. "Competition is already brutal," Carter said. But with the number of discount outlets across the country growing steadily, he says, prices are likely to become even more intense.

INTERVIEW BY CHLOE

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The inexorable spread of the Black empire

BY PETER C. NEWMAN

The world's fastest-expanding newspaper empire, masterminded by Conrad Black in London, actually operates out of the second floor of a run-down walk-up office building near Vancouver's Burnside bridge. From there, David Radler, president of Hollinger Inc., runs the 362 papers spread across four continents that he and Black have acquired since buying the *Keweenaw Star*, an *Advertiser* (circulation 2,500) in 1985.

Hollinger's Canadian headquarters moved to the upscale-looking location from its global headquarters in Toronto shortly after Bob Rae became premier in October, 1990. The other major acquisition was Prince Edward Island, where the chain owns *Scouters' News* and *Journal Phoenix*, but none of the Hollinger executives wanted to live there.

A street fighter with the notoriously rascid wit of a classical scholar, Franklin Drexel Radler, 46, lives during the past quarter-century of deal-making, because Black's editors pay the bills. He is a Montreal restaurant owner (Au Lutin au bouffe, which attracted customers by allowing them to play and pose with puppets wondering around the tables), he has an ex-wife (Fran Quinn's first wife), he is a business by himself (he is a bookend producer at the Cerve Lake Indian Reserve, north of Peterborough, Ont.).

While Black stays in London, presumably he stresses the heart as well as business. Radler goes on acquiring new properties at a dizzying rate. As well as its 42 Canadian newspapers, it owns 78 American dailies and 136 weeklies. Two years ago, Hollinger owned a total of only 31 newspapers—all in Canada. The U.S. papers range from the *Fort Arthur News-Times* (circulation 35,000) to *Pennington's*, *Saturday Post* (circulation 732) including the mighty *Wilmington Daily News* (circulation 1,400,000), the chain's daily circulation now totals two million, and its weekly distribution nearly three million.

The largest current acquisition has come from the \$254-million deal for John Fairfax Pty

The technique for choosing which newspaper to buy remains the same as it has always been: count the number of desks

Ltd. in Australia, which gave Hollinger control of four major national newspapers (including the largest dailies in Sydney and Melbourne) and 18 other publishing properties. London's grandiose *Telegraph* earned a net profit of \$80 million on revenues of \$500 million in 1990, and Hollinger continues to invest abroad so that 90 per cent of its assets are now outside Canada.

One of the holding company's most interesting acquisitions was The *Caribbean Compass* in the Caribbean, which includes a daily vibrant column on how to teach your parrot to talk better. Radler acquired the *Jamaican Post* in 1989, and has since significantly increased its circulation as well as starting an overseas edition in French. He is currently negotiating the purchase of *Morocco*, another leading fourth paper, from the defunct empire of Robert Mondel.

Hollinger's strongest acquisition was the recent purchase of a jewelry business, Jeremy's, an eight-outlet chain in San Diego formerly owned by Anita ("What do I know about the jewelry business?" Radler cheerfully admits). "But I've gotta know a lot more pretty soon. The deal was good and the price was good and we've budgeted for a decade to revenues in the first year that we can live with."

The American link of the chain, which is chaired by Radler, has managed to collect a string of minority Republican papers—and make them even more conservative. "One of the reasons these conservative owners let us buy them is that they felt more comfortable selling to us than to someone else," Radler says. "We now own seven papers in Mississippi and I know we got the *Mississippi Star* over two higher bids simply because we're a conservative. Our ideological reputation has been a real plus for us."

Radler has modelled his operations on the Thomson chain, but grants his local publishers, who are mostly former owners, quite control in terms of editorial freedom. Radler has no trouble finding the line of demarcation. "I don't make each newspaper's editorial day by day," he says, "but if it should come to a matter of principle, I am ultimately the publisher of all these papers, and I editors disagree with us, they should disagree with us when they're no longer in our employ. The last stage with the ownership, I am responsible for meeting the payroll; therefore, I will ultimately determine what the papers say and how they're going to be run."

The editorial philosophy Radler follows is simple and successful. "We give the product to the people who read it—and we're good at it," he boasts. "We give the people what they want. I don't try to determine what's good for them—and that's the difference—because so many publishers put in all their liberal opinions and then wonder why circulation's dropped." How does he know what the people want? By staying at Holiday Inns whenever he travels and going to concerts at the Grand Ole Opry, he claims.

The Radler and Black game plan calls for expanding the chain indefinitely and adding quality along the way. The acquisition process is not as fulfilling as the building process," says Radler. "Of course, the bottom line is the movement, without it you have nothing, you're dead. But the real challenge is how to acquire the newspapers you've already got. With the cash flow it's gone over—but the last comes from holding."

Despite these high aspirations, the Radler technique for choosing which newspaper to buy remains the same as it has always been: count the desks. "I visit the office of each prospective property at night and count the desks," he once explained. "That tells me how many people work there. If the place has, say, 42 desks, I know I can get that paper out with 30 people and that means a dozen people will be leaving the payroll even though I believe I can't fire them."

He adds: "When you buy more than 200 newspapers you actually run into places where there aren't enough desks, and we've actually added desks! This has happened. I know it's hard to believe. But it's true." If Radler gets too heavy to inspect a property before he buys it, he has someone else count the desks for him, but his publishing philosophy—and that of Conrad Black—hasn't changed. "It's all the number of desks," he says. "Without that, you don't know anything."



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A twinkle in the sky

Canadian Roberta Bondar flies in space

When Roberta Bondar, the first Canadian woman to travel in space, returns to Earth this week, her five-foot, one-inch frame is likely to be almost three inches taller than it was when she left. Scientists say that in the weightless conditions of space, astronauts' spines stretch significantly, causing pain and even vertigo before returning to normal after a flight is completed. Finding out more about what changes the human spine undergoes in space was one of the tasks assigned to the 28-year-old neurologist as one of two payload specialists aboard the space shuttle *Discovery*, which blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., on a bright, calm morning last week. For Bondar, the voyage was the realization of a dream that began when she was growing up in South St. Marys, Ont. She said that as a girl, she was supported by seeing American communications satellites. Said Bondar: "We used to be able to watch them go across the sky at night. You just very philosophically think you are young and you think about watching out and going up."

Still, Bondar's job schedule during the seven-day flight of *Discovery* left little time for reflection. Pre-flight tests in her fellow crew members' beds was not one of 62 scientific experiments that Bondar, a medical doctor who specializes in research, and other crew members were assigned to perform during *Discovery*'s 28th voyage. The overall purpose of the flight was to gather data on how plants, animals and humans function in space. Bondar and other members of the crew, under Cmdr Ronald Grabe of the U.S. navy and pilot Steven Oswald, a U.S. air force colonel, conducted experiments in a rendezvous module set up in *Discovery*'s cargo bay to function as a so-called micro-gravity laboratory.

The job was, in which Bondar and German physicist Ulf Merbold participated in alternating 12-hour shifts was a joint effort involving more than 300 ground-based scientists from 16 countries, including Canada, the United States, Japan, France, Denmark and Britain. Bondar carried out experiments that could lead to improved treatment for age-related disorders, motion sickness and some forms of cancer.

About 60 friends and relatives of Bondar,

who is single, travelled to Cape Canaveral to witness the shuttle launch, which took place at 9:03 a.m. EST after a two-minute delay caused by a combination of weather and minor technical concerns. Just eight minutes after blast-off, when *Discovery* left the Earth's atmosphere, Bondar became the second Canadian to fly into space—after Mary Gerners, the Quebec City-born astronaut who was flown a 1984 flight of

life cycle of test controllers, and that she left right at home. On the day after her flight, Bondar and her crew mates spent some of their time tidying up their quarters. Bondar and Merbold shared the shuttle's lab with an array of plants and other life forms, including roundworms, fruit flies, yeast, frog eggs, frog sperm, oat and wheat seedlings, mouse embryo cells and slime mould. All were monitored by sensing devices to determine their responses to weightlessness and space radiation.

For Bondar, the task of conducting scientific experiments in space was the latest chapter in a life characterized by physical and scientific accomplishments. As a youngster in South St. Marys, where her father managed a local public utilities office, Bondar showed an early affinity for sports and science. She also displayed a natural talent for leadership. Said Pignon: "Robby was a great worker and a wonderful leader. We knew she was headed for something out of the ordinary."

After graduating from high school, she went on to earn a bachelor of science degree from the University of Guelph in Ontario, a master of science degree in experimental pathology from the University of Western Ontario in London, a doctorate in neurophysiology from the University of Toronto and a degree in medicine from McMaster University in Hamilton.

In 1983, along with about 4,200 other Canadians, she answered an advertisement that appeared in Canadian newspapers for astronaut trainees. She and five other Canadians, including Gerners and Steven MacLean, an Ontario-born laser physicist who is scheduled to fly aboard a space-shuttle flight in September, were chosen for the program. Larkin Kervin, president of the Montreal-based Canadian Space Agency, who helped to select Bondar, said that she was chosen for her intellectual ability, physical courage and stable personality. He added: "She is a fine scientist, and a remarkable lady physically and intellectually." Declared

Kervin: "She gets along very well with other people, which is essential if you are going to be cooped up with six others for seven days."

Among the preparations for *Discovery*'s flight, Bondar and that she would relieve her present cosmonaut when the 23,500-ton shuttle launch rocketed into the sky. In a prepared statement released by the Canadian Space Agency the day before *Discovery*'s launch, Bondar said that she would soon "be providing the privilege and honor of teaching the Earth with my eyes, my heart, my mind and my soul. All of

you will be lifted into the northglow of blues, greens and greens, while natural light becomes part of a twinkling in the night sky."

Aboard *Discovery*, Bondar was busy with a full schedule of intricate medical and scientific tasks. The Canadian Space Agency's Kervin said that the *Discovery* flight was "the most dense scientific project ever carried into space," and noted that Canadian scientists were responsible for about 10 per cent of the projects. The scientific work aboard the spacecraft included a series of experiments aimed at determining how the human nervous system adapts to weightlessness. The flight's designer was Douglas Wilt, a professor of physiology at Montreal's McGill University. *Discovery* carried a piece of equipment known as the McGill men-sled. After strapping a crew mate into the device, which clides back and forth, Bondar applied electrodes to his leg to determine changes in reflexes in the absence of gravity.

Scientists said that other experiments devised by Wilt's team could lead to refinements in the diagnosis and treatment of inner-ear disorders and motion sickness. According to Luc Lefebvre, project engineer for the McGill experiments, the *Discovery* flight provided an opportunity to learn more about the functioning of the inner ear by carrying out the experiments in the absence of gravity.

Scientists said that another series of experiments, designed by scientists at the University of British Columbia, could lead to improved treatment for cancer. Doctors at the university have developed a protein called "platelet-derived" that can be used to separate bone-marrow cells from other tissue used in treating some forms of cancer. On Earth, gravity inhibits the process, and researchers said that they hoped an experiment run by Bondar in weightless conditions would point to ways of improving the process on Earth.

As with Bondar's control of tests to determine whether humans in space expend more or less energy than when they are on the ground, scientists at the University of Calgary, where the energy-expenditure tests were developed, said that the findings could be used to develop exercise and nutritional programs for astronauts involved in prolonged space flights in the future. In and her experiments, Bondar and Merbold were scheduled to test an anti-gravity suit designed by scientists at the Canadian Space Agency.

Some astronauts in the past have reported feeling fatigued and dizzy upon re-entry. Some of them have also said that they lost some of their peripheral vision, while others said that they became blind during re-entry after the Earth's atmosphere. Scientists believe that the symptoms are caused by a decline in blood volume and other bodily fluids, probably as the result of dehydration, during space flight. The Canadian-designed anti-gravity suit is intended to minimize such symptoms by applying pressure and allowing blood pressure in 11 key areas of the body.

Before *Discovery*'s blast-off, Bondar acknowledged being conscious of the dangers of space flight—in 1966, the Challenger space shuttle exploded shortly after launch, killing all seven aboard. "I know when I get down to the pad and see those tall cranes sitting on the launchpad, that's when you get nervous," Bondar told reporters. She said: "But we would never pass on a challenge like that." And other adventures awaited, the scientists said that she collected could help to improve the health of future astronauts, while making possible better medical care for her fellow earthlings.



Bondar going to the launchpad, leftoff (opposite) her data could help to improve medical care for her fellow earthlings



PEOPLE

TV's new legal eagle

For most of her 17-year career, actress **Maril Hinesway** has played young, aggressive, able women in acclaimed movies like *Melvin and Howard* and *Personal Best*. Now, she's starring in her first TV series, the new ABC hit *Civil Wars*, as a sharp, tough-minded divorce lawyer whose love life is a shambles. And later this year, she co-stars as rock



Hinesway: change of image

singer **John Mellencamp**'s wife in the opening *Eye*. Pulling from Grace Hinesway, a granddaughter of American novelist **Ereast Hinesway**, who committed suicide in 1981, and that she identified with her TV character's problems. The 30-year-old actress added: "What I like about her is she is so realistic on the wife, yet so successful in her personal life. I think a lot of career women have the same problem."

A film-maker's apocalypse

Francis Coppola's Oscar-winning 1979 movie, *Apocalypse Now*, depicted the harrowing experiences of the Vietnam War. Now, *Hearts of Darkness*, a new documentary compiled from footage shot by his wife, **Eleanor Coppola**,

shows how the epic's grueling 238-day shoot in the Philippines starting in 1976 brought the acclaimed film-maker to the edge of his own apocalypse. Said Eleanor Coppola: "It was very painful to watch someone you love go through what Francis went through." In *Hearts of Darkness*

The Coppolas at the edge



Seeing the light

Canadian author **Timothy Findley** is the subject of a new hour-long National Film Board documentary airing on CBC TV this week. The author of *The Wars*, *Plains*, *Last March* and *Nickel and Dimed* on the *50c* said that he was delighted when he first saw the profile, which a crew shot at his farm near Compton, Ont., 70 km northwest of Toronto. Findley, 61, whose fiction is often dark and brooding, called the film "light and magical." He added: "It was truly the watching someone else."

Findley: dark and brooding fiction

THE VANISHING ACT

Only a day after Alberta Premier **Donald Getty**'s controversial Jan. 9 attack on Canada's official bilingualism policy, he left on a three-week vacation. But even amid growing demands for Getty to explain—or retreat—his remarks, his aides have remained silent about where the premier and his wife, Margaret, went. Initial speculation had him golfing in Palm Springs, Calif. But now, political pundits are placing equal bets on Scottsdale, Ariz. Said Broadcast News reporter **John Carter**: "His whereabouts are the highest secret in town."

New frontiers

Science-fiction writer **Ray Bradbury** was in Edmonton last week to attend the opening of a stage adaptation of his 1962 novel, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. Bradbury, who lives in Los Angeles, and that it was the only time that he had travelled so far to see a production of one of his works. But it was the first Edmonton film that he said delighted him most. The 75-year-old writer, whose works include classics like *The Martian Chronicles* and *Fahrenheit 451*, had only praise for the 122-acre shopping complex: "I'd love to shop there." "It's fantastic. It's just like the future," he said.



Bradbury: "the kitchen sink"

next, a tormented Coppola questions his own sanity as he struggles to complete *Apocalypse Now*. And the film deals frankly with drug and alcohol abuse among cast members. Eleanor Coppola, 58, said that her husband did not object to the documentary. She added: "Francis said, 'It's the truth. There is nothing to be gained from hiding it.'"

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FILMS

Sweetness with blight

A director savages contemporary England

LIFE IS SWEET

Directed by Mike Leigh

So not definitely has the upper hand over sweet as Mike Leigh's new cinematic shenanigans contemporary England. The writer-director's latest strident *Life Is Sweet* portrays a middle-class family with a kind of spiritual starvation. Like his most recent movie, *Night Moves* (1988), Leigh's latest feature evokes the British working class. And too is one of the most weapons in his arsenal: One character seems fulfilled by buying a delectable chips-and-burger wagon that he never gets around to repairing. Another opens a prosperous French restaurant dedicated to the memory of singer Salim Poul. At the centre of the film is 21-year-old Nicola (Joan Monro), who refuses to conform to society—but routinely barges on pink food at night before making herself vomit. Winner of this year's best film award from the U.S. National Society of Film Critics, *Life Is Sweet*'s touch-and-go plot with food metaphors to have such emotional impact. But it offers a hilariously biting portrait of a nation whose soul, in Leigh's view, is wasting away.

Disaffected is wearing down Andy (Jim Broadbent), his wife, Wendy (Adrian Stoddart), and their two cooched daughters, Nicola and Natalie (Claire Skinner). Andy detests his work as a chef in an industrial kitchen. He spends much of his free time drinking beer and avoiding household tasks. The plump, nervous Wendy indulges him and tries to keep the family content with dirty jokes and rural-fair dances. Sullen and antagonistic, Natalie is a planner who normally fields questions about why she does not have a boyfriend. The volatile Nicola, meanwhile, is restless and unemployed. She larks about the house, sometimes making dirt magazines and spitting out words like "middle-class warfare."

The family moves in a social circle of cow men and bums. Percy, who deals in stolen goods, is not alone through his past friend Andy, selling him the much-waged he is shortly high on acid. And the gossamer, Julie, who dreams like Elton John, is about to open the doomed French restaurant called Regent Kiss. Dejected with a bicycle torn apart with garlic, a stalled car's head and an accordion saved in half, the place has a mess right out of *Midnight Express*. The highlights include black painting and Cameron's soap opera sniffs, her in-laws and something Andy calls pork eye.

Interwoven with the tangibly comic moments are quiet, detailed scenes that give the movie humanity. At one point, Wendy berates Nicola while meticulously dusting her tea-

room, family photos, a cat figurine, a ceramic face in a toilet plunger. In spite, a drunken Andy displays childlike delight when Percy tries to sell him a pocket-sized television. Meanwhile,

like a reflex, the camera insistently shows Nicola hanging back from the others, peering at her hair, dressing her fingers and unearthing. At times, many girls way to heavy-headedness. A classic argument becomes a shuriken between the old, impudic working class and its disaffected children as Wendy, who takes comfort from a laugh, a good meal and the dream of having another baby, avoids the starving Nicola, who is devoid of humor and cannot bear the thought of pregnancy. Wendy's stomach offers a hint of redemption. But *Life Is Sweet* leaves a lingering taste of despair.

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BOOKS

A lust for life

James A. Michener traces
his adventurous career

THE WORLD IS MY HOME: A MEMOIR
By James A. Michener
Doubleday House, 325 pages, \$39.95

These are times when the American novelist James A. Michener seems less a human being than a one-man industry. In the 45 years since the appearance of his first book, *Tales of the South Pacific*, the indefatigable author has churned out more than 30 others, including such monumental volumes as *Hawaii*, *The River and the Raft*, *Alaska*. His 31 most recent works were written between 1986 and 1991—after Michener had undergone a quadruple heart bypass operation in 1985, at the age of 79. "It was an almost obscene display of inviolable industry," he writes in his new autobiography, *The World Is My Home*. So given the slowly deteriorating and enormous hunger for life as related in the book, his accomplishments are hardly surprising. Michener's career is a testament to the power of the human will.

The author's literary achievements are particularly significant since they occupy only the second half of his life. Until he was 46, he had no ambition to become a writer. The son of an impoverished Pennsylvania widow, Michener won a scholarship to Swarthmore College and later worked as a teacher and textbook editor. With the outbreak of the Second World War, he joined the army. As a Quartermaster, he would not fight, but his commanders sent him on information-gathering missions among their bases in the South Pacific. It was there that he began to gather the stories about American soldiers and South Sea island women that he would weave into *Tales of the South Pacific*. The book appeared in 1947, after Michener had resumed work in the publishing industry. In *The World Is My Home*, he describes a day when his boss was berating him for his clumsy use of English—only to be interrupted by a phone call announcing that *Tales* had just won the Pulitzer Prize. The book is largely forgotten now, while the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical based on it, *South Pacific*, has become a classic.

Over the next few years, Michener developed his vision of the kind of long, complex novel, heavy with information and complicated plots, that would become his trademark. It occurred to him, he recalls in his autobiography, that "before people take of the 48-minute television novel, they will years for a substitute

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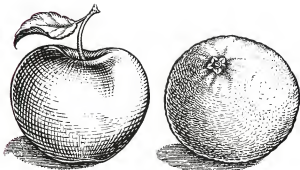
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BOOKS

tell less writers whose covers they can lose comparatively few weeks. "Many literary critics have derided Maclean's weekly pages, claiming that they are burdened with simplistic characterizations and textbook-like accumulations of facts. But Maclean's rightly resists these accusations: that he is an unoriginal, conventional writer. As virtually every page of *The World Is My House* proves, he is a bona fide storyteller—a gift that many more graceful stylists have often lacked.

Maclean's writes that tortoise-like patience is the secret of his immense productivity. He usually spends three months on a large book, one for research and two for writing—seven days a week—on his heavy manual typewriter. When he is not working, he likes to travel, feeding the insatiable curiosity that has been with him ever since his boyhood (including time around the United States. Maclean is one of the few people who can genuinely call themselves world citizens: he seems at home on a remote Scottish crag or in an Indian village in the 1950s, he ran with the bulls at Pamplona (and was nearly killed) and in 1966 he helped smuggle Hungarians out of their country after the failure of the anti-Communist revolution.

Apart from such adventures (the most lasting impression left by *The World Is My House* is of Maclean's commitment to social justice. A self-confessed "liberal humanist," he rigorously opposes the current trend in North American society to vilify individualism. Indeed, he has given millions of his earnings away to charities, to the support of struggling writers—most to the last man. He calls them "the best expenditure of money I have made in my life," arguing that a truly civilized society is one that shares its wealth. And he points out that without a system of free education, the story of his life might have been very different.

Generous, tolerant, optimistic and unpretentious, Maclean represents one of the best strains in American life. But he also shares the general weakness of his generation: an external self-consciousness. In many ways, *The World Is My House* is an ability evasive book, in which Maclean dances away from topics that he finds painful or embarrassing. He mentions that he has been divorced, once, but says nothing of either marriage. Nor does he reveal whether he falls prey to moods or weaknesses of any kind.

Yet he is candid about his origins. In the last chapter of the book, Maclean writes that there is a good possibility that he was either an orphan raised by his adoptive mother out of charity, or her illegitimate son. And he recalls how certain religious made him miserable as a youth by assuming that he was not a "real" Maclean. Given after he became a famous writer, he received anonymous hate letters chiding him for rising above his origins. "Who is the hell do you think you are?" one writer demanded to know, "trying to be better than you are?" *The World Is My House*, James Maclean's highly selective but always engaging attempt to answer that question.

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Youth of *They Never Asked Us* handing over airtime to an overlooked age group

TELEVISION

Testament of youth

Teens speak their minds in four new series

The question fronts the predictability of ground-time television: "Have you ever felt like talking someone?" asks David Schickel, host of the Vision TV series *They Never Asked Us* (Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.). On the four-episode hit, the series

features teens who lounge casually on carpets and cushions begin to talk. "There's this guy, he's across me over morally," says one young man, "and he's got a girl while they were sleeping." "Wanda mentions," says a young woman, apparently assuming it. "My ex-boyfriend," adds another. Then, telling the others that they are having "two dramatic," another boy pipes in. "To actually kill somebody," he says, "you've got to have balls of steel!" That candid exchange captures the spirit of four brand new documentary series airing on Canadian television in 1992—all devoted to letting teenagers and young adults speak openly about the world in which they live.

The 13-part, half-hour series *They Never Asked Us*, which begins on Vision TV on Jan. 2, is the only one of the four in which the young people do not actually tape the material. On the CBC, which is offering the other three series, teenagers themselves operate the video cameras. In its current season, which begins on Jan. 5, the society, half-hour documentary series *Life: The Program* (Sundays at 7:30 p.m.) is

including short segments shot by, and about, adolescents in nine of its 13 episodes. On Feb. 26, the CBC will also launch a six-part weekly series of half-hour documentaries called *Deeper Truths* (Mondays at 8:30 p.m.) hosted by the stars of the former dramatic series *Deeper Truths* and *Deeper Truths* High, and devoting entire episodes to such issues as teenage sex, drugs and depression.

As well, the CBC has launched a nationwide search for aspiring video-camera operators aged 16 to 25 to shoot a new documentary series called *Real Motion* (set to begin production in the summer and airing in the fall; the 13-part series will be devoted to developing a dialogue among young adults in English and French Canada and native communities on such issues as constitutional reform and language rights).

Executives responsible for all four series say that they are committed to handing over airtime to an age group whose opinions and concerns, they argue, have historically been overlooked by television. Sam Peter, Fitzpatrick, director of programming for Vision TV, a nonaffiliated national cable service available to 5.5 million homes across the country. "It might sound hard to say this about teenagers, but we really felt that there was a need to give a voice to the voiceless," Angela Brown, the creative

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head of programming for children's TV at the CBC, and that TV executives "too often just don't listen to teenagers." Added Briscoe:

"They're huge consumers of the medium. Yet they never have any real input at their own when it comes to TV."

Of the three shows already filmed, *They Never Asked Us* provides the most intense portrait of its subjects. Similar to the just-released feature-length documentary more than 16 (page 44), *They Never Asked Us* focuses throughout on one group of teenagers, allowing them to explore their thoughts and feelings over 60 hours of airtime. The discussions are lively partly because the show's co-producers Shelley Klinek and Josh Berman, made a point of choosing participants from a wide variety of religious and ethnic backgrounds.

At times, their differences of opinion are clearly influenced by family history—evident when two young women, Karla Hays, a now 16-year-old Mississauga whose parents moved to Canada from Tanzania in 1966, and Xanthia Pearce, a hip 18-year-old whose paternal grandparents emigrated from Britain six generations ago, debate parental sex. When Hays credits her determination to pursue her virginity with marriage to her parents' strict values, Pearce says that her Anglican parents, inspired by the faith, have given her much less rigid advice: "Know that when you do it, it's right for you."

The co-producers of *Degrassi: The Next Generation* and a Toronto-based company, Flying With Tuna Inc.—just their own spin on the teenage documentary format. They imagined former *Degrassi* actors to lead the new series—and reasoned that each of the leads had both personal and professional experience with

the issue at hand. Actor Rod Hope, whose own father died of alcohol-related cirrhosis of the liver, and whose character, Mitchell, was sent to prison on charges of drunk driving in the recent TV movie *Shelby's Got It*? *The Degrassi Nature*, hosts an episode devoted to alcohol abuse among teenagers. Interwoven with scenes from the former *Degrassi* TV series are interviews conducted by Hope with a young man who killed two friends while driving drunk, and a young woman confined to a wheelchair after being struck by an intoxicated motorist. The result is often electric. In an equally impressive episode devoted to sexuality, *Scene Mystery*—whose *Degrassi* characters, Carla, once had lesbian fantasies about a teacher—co-hosts cross-Canada on-the-street interviews with a revealing discussion about homosexuality with her own gay sister, Kim.

Although they are much shorter in comparison, the best segments shot by teenagers at



Degrassi's Mystery-mixtapes impressive

this season's episodes of the can't-miss *Life: The Program* convey a refreshing message: teenagers looking at the more serious-minded *They Never Asked Us* and *Degrassi: The Next Generation*. This season, producer Julie Briscoe equipped six students from Ontario high schools with hand-held cameras and asked each of them to produce 16 hours of footage, over a six-month period, about their lives at home and school. Briscoe then edited their efforts to lend segments. Among the results is a hilarious portrait of a frustrated, football-coached teenage girl whose upper lip has broken just before a big date. Another segment shows an impatient father drives to physically remove the video camera from the hands of his prying son.

Like *Degrassi: The Next Generation* and the upcoming *Next*

Mean, the teenage-focused segments of *Life: The Program* clearly mark a new determination among TV executives to tap the talents of a video-literate generation of young people—and to create entertaining, relatively inexpensive television in the process. "One reason we can do this," said Briscoe, "is that it really costs very little." And even when professional cameras come record the proceedings—as in the case of *They Never Asked Us*, which has a budget of about \$5,000 per show—that Venson's Klinek calls "the natural wisdom of teenagers" makes for refreshing TV. Added Klinek: "It's a combination of young people's hatred of hypocrisy, their determination to stand up and face things and their refusal to put up with bullsh*t." As starkly expensive as the teenagers themselves, Klinek's approach is a fitting one for prime time's newest stars.

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Helen Gaff, Lisa, Astra, Rhonda, Erin from *A student to 'demon seed'*

FILMS

Intimate girl talk

Five engaging 16-year-olds bare their souls

TALK 16
Directed by Adrienne Mitchell and
Joan Landman

The phrase "sweet 16" suggests that at the heart of adolescence lies a stupor of teenage bliss. Talk 16, a highly entertaining documentary by two Toronto film-makers, conveys a different impression. Collaborating on their first theatrical feature, Directors Adrienne Mitchell and Joan Landman have chronicled pre-war life of five 16-year-old girls. Although they form a diverse group, they suffer similar growing pains—bodily troubles, peer pressures and alienation from their parents. *Talk 16* is not just sociology; it is a funny, poignant exploration of teenage culture that lets its subjects candidly express—and expose—themselves in all their vulnerable states. "We wanted to make a film that would give teenage girls a voice," said Mitchell. "There are a lot of films about boys coming of age. We didn't feel there was anything out there addressing young women."

She and Landman interviewed 380 Toronto-area teenagers before selecting the five subjects whom they would start filming on New Year's Eve, 1989. The girls vie a study a contrasts Astra, a self-described "demon seed" who loves to pursue a secret life of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll; Helen, an overachieving Christian; as A Majini whose Kwanzaa pursuits require her social life with parental discipline. Rita is a private-school

girl who has a modelling career on her mind and several boyfriends at her feet. Roseanne Lisa, who works part time at a dry cleaner, begins the new year with a solemn vow to get a boyfriend. And Rhonda, studious but vulnerable, endures for the school play and says that she is determined to become "Canada's first black actress-to-make-it-when I've died. I want people to look me up as an encyclopedia and write about me."

Talk 16's teenagers are all utterly engaging on camera. But Astra, the quintessential bad girl, experiences the most dramatic ups and downs. She casually describes her experiences with anorexia and abortion. And over the course of the year, she pledges her love to two teenage actors, both re-creates. Without a hint of humor, one of Astra's subjects tells the camera that he plans "to be one of three things—a recording engineer, a television actor or a lawyer." But he soon ends up back in jail.

By contrast, Rita's world is one of hard work and religious zeal. When she isn't studying, giving piano recitals or attending Bible class, she pulls in \$300 a week from two part-time jobs and does volunteer work at a hospital. But her desire to have a social life as well as constant conflict with her parents.

In the course of a year, each subject undergoes surprising changes. Erin, the private-school sweetie who dreams of having a house with a swimming pool and horses in the backyard, turns out to be less spoiled than she seems. Lisa and Rhonda, meanwhile, both

become targets of sadistic gossip after trying to show their interest in the opposite sex. "One thing we faced," said Mitchell, "is that the double standard is alive and well. Young women still can't express themselves freely without negative ramifications, although there's even more pressure for them to experiment with sexuality."

Talk 16 sometimes creates humor at the expense of its subjects. The girls giggle and whisper their secrets to the camera, as if it were a private confidant. The camera, meanwhile, can be inappropriately intrusive. But the winning personalities of Talk 16's subjects transcend the format. And although the documentary's techniques appear conventionally manipulative, the girls are so sincere in grasping the filmmakers for their compassion and integrity in respect interviews with Madonna, they said that Mitchell and Landman counseled them and their parents at every stage. And they all pointed to the film's therapeutic benefits, especially Astra, who now appears to be on the road to reform. "The film gave a perspective on myself that I'd never had before," she said.

By becoming so intimately involved with their subjects, the movie's co-directors have done more than document five lives. They say that they're making a close contact with the girls, who still look to them for support and advice. "They're our daughters now," said Landman. "We have them for life." Long after the camera has stopped rolling, the lives of Talk 16 are still talking.

BRIAN D. JOHNSON

Macleans

BEST-SEEN LIST

FICITION

- 1 *Monter & Working Spirit*, Carson (J)
- 2 *Giffin and Solace*, Bennett (S)
- 3 *Prayers of a Very Wise Child*, Carter (J)
- 4 *Wilderness*, Sig, Atwood (S)
- 5 *Madley's Seven*, Davies
- 6 *Holloway*, Krentz (S)
- 7 *Mr. A. Boller*, Bennett, Koller (K)
- 8 *The Fenchel Road*, Orr (K)
- 9 *Private Eyes*, Johnson
- 10 *Super Secret*, McInnis (K)

NONFICTION

- 1 *The New Canons*, Manning (J)
- 2 *Endless*, Finkel
- 3 *Peppers*, Bryant, Pajon (S)
- 4 *The Banquet of Canons*, Marty (J)
- 5 *Waters on World War II*, at Finkel
- 6 *The Village and the House*, Woodard and Miller (S)
- 7 *Memories*, Bennett (S)
- 8 *Max*, Davies of My Life, Johnson (S)
- 9 *Revolution from Within*, Davies
- 10 *Twilight*, Pajon (J)

(J) Fiction best overall

Compiled by Brian Johnson

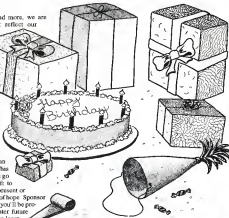
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Shortlist for a permanent Skylab

BY ALLAN POTTERINGHAM

Round and round it goes, circling the globe once every hour: a toy dot called *Discovery*. We've grown blasé over the space shots, snapping at screens only when the Challenger explodes while the world watches on television, losing track over the years as space shuttles are launched and landed.

Candidates are paying attention. This time, intrigued by the suddenly famous Roberto Bonder, the 46-year-old with four degrees who's locked up there with a Gemini and the *Aurora*. For once, we follow the drinks and try to imagine what it would be like to be Roberto Bonder.

We imagine her looking down on Canada as she passes over it, viewing from afar the unemployment in Newfoundland, the forests of the Maritimes, the restless separatists in Quebec, the vineyards in southern Ontario, the bankrupt farmers on the Prairies and a British Columbia that contains, somewhere, both Bill Vander Zanden and Fritz Leung.

Bonder, it turns out, is the luckiest Canadian in the country in that she is neither a poor loner, a problem, no doubt, given even more perspective on this layered but troubled land. We may live, since if every single Canadian could trade spots with her for even one circuit of Earth the misery of our luck and misadventure would penetrate the land. There would be no end to the lambing and whoring, an appreciation of our luck in a world that has real problems.

The imagination awakes, further hopes and dreams come forth. Dr. Roberto Bonder is undoubtedly the most deserving Canadian to ride the space shuttle, but who else might serve as the lambing and whoring, an appreciation of our luck in a world that has real problems?

The candidates leap to mind. They don't build space labs big enough to qualify. How many would like to spend permanently with the sweet-tempered Herme André, the government leader in the House of Commons, who sees that Clyde Wells and Don Getty should be put at the bottom of a lake because they are so bold as to support a Triple-E Senate?



André is an automatic candidate, because he so perfectly represents the Ottawa cocaine thinking, the status panic over anything that challenges the coffee pot in the town that has forgot. With him, as companions drift, would go those two Tory backwashers (one of them, at least, a former Conservative) who should "Shut" and "Shut" during debate and then, naturally, drop off.

While we're at it, an extended stay with—will no set date for return—would be suitable for Grey, the veteran premier from an expatriated province who suddenly discovers bilingualism as the Reform party looms in his successor at the polls. And then immediately flies to his more comfortable territory, a Polaris Springs golf course, rather than report and defend his views before a parliamentary caucus committee that breathes in Edmonton.

Obvious candidates for an extended mission as a negligible void are the executives of the

Canadian holding company Hees International/Bemcor Inc. who have killed a buck on its risky most misadventures by an award-winning reporter by threatening the publisher before the manuscript has even been submitted. They deserve some air.

Worthy candidates for a spell floating in space are all the coaches and executives of the National Hockey League who mismanage—by not punishing severely—the goons and thugs they employ as "enforcers," the only professional sport that hires people who don't have the skills to play the game.

Roberta's spot for a few weeks could be filled by professional showboats Savel Robinson and Geoff Scott (demonstrating that showboating is dangerous), who go to China hoping to be drowned out and then complain when they are. A reserved person, if only to clear his head, obviously should be held for Prime Minister, who thinks the solution to Canada's problem is to protest that Quebec does not exist.

His reasoning—to run candidates at every province except Quebec—surely indicates a state of enlightenment already, a belief that the way to hold the country together is to tear it apart. Dear Prime Minister, would copy it in the wall.

There are so many who qualify for an educating enlightening spell to clear the head. There are the heads of Canada's protected banks, even now piling up record profits while the rest of the economy goes into a spin. The never yet met a more bank president, and I'm sure millions of Canadians would cheer as they are blasted off in a shuttle that accidentally veers off into space because of computer error and driver mistake.

The senators tell us that there is a myriad of game-winning space medals and major satellites and just floating around up there, never to be recovered—Russian, American, who have you. It would only be appropriate that Canada contribute our share, since God knows we have the material to fill them. Senator John Buchanan? Senator Lowell Murray? The senators who played the games and won't in the candidate's Shout Capped? An extended time slot for both Jacques Parizeau and Robert Bourassa would do the country no harm at all, and might help both of them. The show both out of the debate for a while and, with *Protest* up there with them, it might be among the common sense that no night in hell.

Finally, of course, a trade—for Roberto Bonder—with Dennis Milliken, whose wife has become no longer. He wanted, in my opinion, to run the world as secretary general of the United Nations. Now give him a colonial view of it.



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